



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 3, 2021

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Thoughts of Preparation

The end of meditation is to become empty enough to be filled with the kind of stillness the Psalmist has in mind when he says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (46:10). -- *Frederick Buechner, Beyond Words*

Meditation is waiting on God. -- *Gandhi*

All of man's difficulties are caused by his inability to sit, quietly, in a room by himself.
-- *Blaise Pascal*

Human beings seem to have a perpetual tendency to have somebody else talk to God for them. We are content to have the message second hand...The history of religion is the story of an almost desperate scramble to have a king, a mediator, a priest, a pastor, a go-between. In this way we do not need to go to God ourselves.

Such an approach saves us from the need to change, for to be in the presence of God is to change...That is why meditation is so threatening to us. It boldly calls us to enter into the living presence of God for ourselves. -- *Richard J. Foster, Celebration of Discipline*

Because I am a Christian. -- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, when asked why he practiced meditation*

Welcome

Prelude *Meditation on "Bread of Life"* (*Jack Goode*)

Tower Bell

Introit

Call to Worship (Responsive-from Thomas à Kempis)

O God my Truth, make me one with You in eternal love.

Often I become weary with reading and hearing many things.

You are all I want and desire.

Let all teachers be mute and creation keep silence before You.

Speak to me, You, and You alone.

Unison Prayer of Adoration & Confession (St. Benedict of Nursia)
*Gracious and Holy Father, please give me: intellect to understand
You, reason to discern You, diligence to seek You, wisdom to find You,
a spirit to know You, a heart to meditate upon You, ears to hear You,
eyes to see You, a tongue to proclaim You, a way of life pleasing to
You, patience to wait for You and perseverance to look for You. Grant
me a perfect end, Your holy presence, a blessed resurrection and life
everlasting. Amen.*

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the Hebrew Psalms:
Psalm 139,1-14, 17-18, 23-24

Lord, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans. You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways. There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely. You surround me—front and back. You put your hand on me. That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

Where could I go to get away from your spirit? Where could I go to escape your presence?

If I went up to heaven, you would be there. If I went down to the grave, you would be there too! If I could fly on the wings of dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—even there your hand would guide me; even there your strong hand would hold me tight! If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me," even then the darkness isn't too dark for you! Nighttime would shine bright as day, because darkness is the same as light to you!

You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb. I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

God, your plans are incomprehensible to me! Their total number is countless!

If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand! If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you. Examine me, God! Look at my heart! Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me, then lead me on the eternal path!

Anthem

“Jesus Loves Me”

(Sung - il Park)

*Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.
Jesus loves me he who died, heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.*

*O Lord my Lord who loves me, listen to the sound of my pleading.
Let all my true hopes be according to your own heart.
In the dark I cry out this prayer. O Lord you see and hear me
and you make me realize the true love that saves me.*

*I praise the Lord, you are my Lord forever and ever.
You are my everything.*

Scripture Lesson

From the New Testament Letters:
Philippians 4:6-9 [NKJV]

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Silent Prayer:

Gathering Together in Prayer

Silent Prayer -- Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

(Hildegard of Bingen)

As we bring our offering today, “Composer of all things, light of all the risen, key of salvation, release from the dark prison, hope of all unions, scope of all chastities, joy in the glory, strong honor— be with us and hear us.”

Offertory

“Look at the World”

(John Rutter)

Look at the world, everything all around us;
Look at the world, and marvel every day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain;

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season,

Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:
Every good gift, all that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;
His is the earth, and his the heavens above.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels:

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. -- Luke 4.1-2

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!" He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." Mark 1.35-38

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5.16

But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you. "When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard. Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. Matthew 6.6-8

Sermon *BECOMING WHO YOU ARE -- The Spiritual Disciplines,
Part Three: MEDITATION*

Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

***Gathering at the Lord's Table: Holy Communion**

The Invitation

Jesus prayed that we might be one.

One in spirit. One in mission. One in purpose.

In union and communion with each other and with God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Communion Prayer**

Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere.

We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

The Recollection

Consecration and Blessing “And the Table Will Be Wide”

~ by Jan L. Richardson, *The Painted Prayerbook* (paintedprayerbook.com)

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Sharing the Elements

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Thank You, Eternal Love, for this meal of remembrance; and for embracing us in the Spirit's power, as we have shared it with sisters and brothers of faith around the world today. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; may the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers, evangelists, and healers; and may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim Your commonwealth in every word we speak, and in everything we do. For Jesus' Sake. Amen.

***Hymn #595** “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”
(see last page)

***Benediction** “All That We Share Is Sacred”

By Andrée Mol (www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/all-we-share-sacred)

As we depart now together, may we remember:
When you share with me what is most important to you, and when
share our hearts with God,
That is where listening begins.
When I show you that I hear you, when I say your life matters,
That is where compassion begins.
When I open the door to greet you,
That is where hospitality begins.
When I venture out to bring you to shelter,
That is where love begins.
When I risk my comfort to ease your suffering, when I act against
hatred, violence, and injustice,
That is where courage begins.
When we experience the full presence of each other, because of
our shared humanity,
Because of our differences,
That is where holy gratitude begins.

Go forth then, with these many blessings, and change your world!
Amen.

Postlude

“Minuet” (from concerto 9)

(G.F. Handel)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Vickie Kennedy

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting
with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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They'll Know We Are Christians 595

Unison



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938-); para. John 13:35

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