



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 24, 2021

Thoughts of Preparation

Solitude makes the spiritual life possible because in it we are freed from the bondage to people and our inner compulsions, and we are freed to love God and know compassion for others. -- *Richard Foster*

Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life...If we really believe not only that God exists but also that he is actively present in our lives— healing, teaching, and guiding—we need to set aside a time and space to give him our undivided attention. -- *Henri Nouwen*

It is not hard to turn a switch, pull a plug, or press a button; the hard part is wanting to. Harder still, but equally necessary, is the quieting of the mind, the silencing of the incessant internal chatterboxes that accompany us everywhere. -- *Edward Curtain, The Disappearance of Silence*

Welcome

Prelude “*Have Thine Own Way Lord*” (*Don Hustad*)

Tower Bell

***Responsive Call to Worship**

(*Roddy Hamilton, “A More Human Silence”*)

The deepest moments that make us more fully human
that recognize the worth of life and the value of what people do
*are not found in victory parades or in great speeches by world
leaders or in the noise of conflict or the seeking of power.*

The deepest moments that make us more fully human
are the moments we find filled with silence,
for only in silence does remembrance live,
not to recall memories, not to learn lessons, not to thank God for
victories or grieve with God amid the wastage
*but where we become part of a moment that recognizes there is
no word, no action, no intent more human than to halt
everything and do nothing but wonder in silence.*

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

How hard we make things, O God, how heavy the yoke we place on ourselves through our insecurity and pride, through our fear and unbelief, through our denial and stagnation;

how threatening our world becomes when we make life and joy depend on our own ability.

But, you have invited us to a different life, an abundant life, a deeper joy;

you have offered us a lighter yoke if we will just stop for a moment and follow you.

Thank you for your gently urgent whisper, your softly persistent touch, calling us to come, to rest, and to lay down our self-imposed burdens; With relief and hope we respond to your invitation -- we enter silence, solitude, and make space for you

gladly taking up your yoke, joyfully lifting your burden, and freely giving ourselves to you in love, in praise and in service.
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 Psalter: Psalm 131

Lord, my heart isn't proud; my eyes aren't conceited.

I don't get involved with things too great or wonderful for me.

No. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child on its mother;

My soul within me is like a weaned child.

Israel, wait for the Lord—from now until forever from now!

Anthem

“Then Sings My Soul”

(Mary McDonald)

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur

And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing

Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing

He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Scripture Lesson--From the Hebrew Psalter: Psalm 4

When I call, give me answers. God, take my side! Once, in a tight place, you gave me room. Now I'm in trouble again: grace me! hear me!

You rabble—how long do I put up with your scorn? How long will you lust after lies? How long will you live crazed by illusion?

Look at this: look who got picked by God! He listens the split second I call to him.

Complain if you must, but don't lash out. Keep your mouth shut, and let your heart do the talking. Build your case before God and wait for his verdict.

Why is everyone hungry for more? "More, more," they say. "More, more." I have God's more-than-enough, more joy in one ordinary day than they get in all their shopping sprees. At day's end I'm ready for sound sleep, For you, God, have put my life back together.

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

A Stewardship Moment

Diana Stamm

Offertory

"The Lord Bless You And Keep You" (John Rutter)

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen.*

Scripture Lesson--From The Gospels: Matthew 7:7-10, 13-18, 24-29; 16:24-25

“Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? Or give them a snake when they ask for fish?...Go in through the narrow gate. The gate that leads to destruction is broad and the road wide, so many people enter through it. But the gate that leads to life is narrow and the road difficult, so few people find it. Watch out for false prophets. They come to you dressed like sheep, but inside they are vicious wolves. You will know them by their fruit. Do people get bunches of grapes from thorny weeds, or do they get figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, and every rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit. And a rotten tree can't produce good fruit....Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn't fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn't put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed.” When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he was teaching them like someone with authority and not like their legal experts.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them.

Sermon BECOMING WHO YOU ARE – The Spiritual Disciplines, Part Six:
Silence, Solitude, and Awe

Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Hymn #458

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (Angel’s Story)
(see last page)

***Responsive Benediction**

(Elizabeth Barnum, Before the Amen -- adapted)

May our disciplines descend us into the depths of encounter with You, O God!

May our dedication divert us from doubt into deeper trust.

May our devotion propel us forward with momentum.

May passion ignite our inertia and free us from boredom and cynicism.

May our practice hold us steady amidst chaos within and around us.

May our prayers grant us endurance for the long haul.

And, on the days when we bypass the need for practice, guide us ever so gently to sustained commitment to show up for ourselves, to show up for you, no matter the excuse we have conjured.

Keep teaching us. We’ll keep learning.

Bless our paths of practice with refreshing insight and enduring wisdom.
Amen!

Postlude

“Come Thou Almighty King” (Albin Whitworth)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

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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O Jesus, I Have Promised

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1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; re -
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still, a -
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you that

main for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend: I
 bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will. O
 where you are in glo - ry, your ser - vant shall be too; and,

shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side, nor
 speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol; now
 Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end; O

wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 speak, and make me lis - ten, O guard - ian of my soul.
 give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode (1816-1874), alt.
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann (1850-1929)

ANGEL'S STORY
 7.6.7.6.D.