



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
October 31, 2021

Thoughts of Preparation

What deadens us most to God's presence within, I think, is the inner dialogue that we are engaged in with ourselves, the endless chatter of human thought. I suspect there is nothing more crucial to true spiritual comfort than being able from time to time to stop the chatter, including the chatter of spoken prayer.

-- *Frederick Buechner, Telling Secrets*

You may not realize it, but your desire for God is the truest and most essential thing about you.

-- *Ruth Haley Barton Invitation To Solitude And Silence*

Our spiritual journey must lead through the desert or else our healing will be the product of our own will. – *Dan Allender, The Healing Path*

Welcome

Prelude

“*We Gather Together*” (Arr. By John Innes)
(*Michael Sullivan - Organ, Dobin Park – Piano*)

Tower Bell

*Responsive Call to Worship

It is as if God says to us: “Earnestly receive the colored light of each new autumn day as my strength. There is something to be gained in you through the silence of each pearled morning.”

**Creator of all our days, O Glory who paints the autumn forest,
help us receive Your strength every day, in silence, awe, and
wonder.**

“Listen. Wait. It is deeper than your thoughts. Feel into it through your body. Fearlessly open to my love!

**Fearless One, Who is only Love, meet us in our fear, our doubt,
our lack of trust. Help us find silent spaces, and empty time,
and to truly open to Your love!**

“Be encouraged, not afraid, by the powers that be.”

As a mother cuddles and quiets her anxious child, a father who shares calm yet fortifying strength, grant us wholly new trust in You, grace, pure and unbounded!

“And always remember: nurture your relationship with Me, your Source. All is well. Every relationship is my temple. I celebrate quality, not kind.”

Rekindle the fire of our desire for You! Help us abandon all illusions that anything but Your holy Love can satisfy our deepest needs, and quench our deepest and unnamable longings!

“Love is the quality of My heart, wooing you into a bigger life than you can imagine or control. Enjoy this journey, beloved ones!”

O Source of Joy, O Fountain of truest Peace, we will not turn from Your bidding as we come into worship longing, hungering, seeking. We come to You, aching to return Your Love!

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

(“God speaks to the Soul,” Mechthild of Magdeburg)

And God said to the soul:

I desired you before the world began. I desire you now as you desire me. And where the desires of two come together, there love is perfected.

HOW THE SOUL SPEAKS TO THE SOUL

Lord, you are my lover, my longing, my flowing stream, my sun, and I am your reflection.

HOW GOD ANSWERS THE SOUL

It is my nature that makes me love you often, for I am love itself. It is my longing that makes me love you intensely, for I yearn to be loved from the heart. It is my eternity that makes me love you long, for I have no end.

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 Bible: 1 Kings 19:4-9, 11-13, 15-16

But Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?...Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ...Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

Anthem

“Shout to God”

(Joseph Martin)

Shout to God, sing a loud hosanna
Shout to God with a song of joy!
Shout to God with a loud hosanna.
Glory to God! Come sing to God a song of joy.
Praise the Lord with the trumpet.
Praise the Lord with a shout.
Praise ye the Lord with the crashing cymbals.
Praise Him with Alleluia!

Scripture Lesson

From the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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

Charles Hawkins

Offertory*“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” (Molly Ijames)*

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I own, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer,
fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine’s blaze its day may
brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn
shall ever tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to hide from Thee; I lay in dust life’s
glory dead,

And from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: Luke 4:1-13

Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry.

The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.”

For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

Worship Notes

Today's *Call to Worship* is adapted from a prayer in Centering Prayers: A One-Year Daily Companion for Going Deeper into the Love of God, by Peter Traben Haas, with alternative stanzas written by Pastor Barry.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Chuck Hawkins

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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358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

