



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 24, 2022

Thoughts of Preparation

I think the unnamed disciple of Luke 11:1 wanted to learn more about Jesus' love for God and his intense desire to see God's reign come to full fruition. "Teach us to pray" is about equivalent to "Show us your heart" or "Tell us — what is it like to be in communion with God?" Don't turn to Jesus and scripture for ruminations on techniques, models, and "best practices." Go there to discover what love looks like — love in action, love for God and neighbor.
— *Dr. Matt Skinner (workingpreacher.org)*

Praying is talking to the Universe. Meditation is listening to it.
— *Paulo Coelho*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *"The Lord's Prayer with Rachmaninoff"* (Arr. By Hye-an Kim)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Though we run hot and cold, fickle and changing in our faith,

Your love, O God, remains certain and constant.

Though we grow tired and disillusioned, bored and distracted far too easily,

Your love stays true to the end.

Though we allow grief, anger, selfishness, and a thousand other things to turn us away from grace and mercy,

Your love refuses to let go; we praise and thank You, O God, for Your relentless love,

For it's abundant availability, and for so flooding our lives with love, that some must, inevitably overflow and warm others with its touch.

Help us be more faithful in, and focused on, loving You and our neighbors. Amen.

***Unison Gathering Prayer**

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying to SELF that we are born to all fullness of LIFE. 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: Genesis 18:20-32 *[The Message]*

God continued, “The cries of the victims in Sodom and Gomorrah are deafening; the sin of those cities is immense. I’m going down to see for myself, see if what they’re doing is as bad as it sounds. Then I’ll know.”

The men set out for Sodom, but Abraham stood in God’s path, blocking his way.

Abraham confronted him, “Are you serious? Are you planning on getting rid of the good people right along with the bad? What if there are fifty decent people left in the city; will you lump the good with the bad and get rid of the lot? Wouldn’t you spare the city for the sake of those fifty innocents? I can’t believe you’d do that, kill off the good and the bad alike as if there were no difference between them. Doesn’t the Judge of all the Earth judge with justice?”

God said, “If I find fifty decent people in the city of Sodom, I’ll spare the place just for them.”

Abraham came back, “Do I, a mere mortal made from a handful of dirt, dare open my mouth again to my Master? What if the fifty fall short by five—would you destroy the city because of those missing five?”

He said, "I won't destroy it if there are forty-five." Abraham spoke up again, "What if you only find forty?" "Neither will I destroy it if for forty." He said, "Master, don't be irritated with me, but what if only thirty are found?" "No, I won't do it if I find thirty." He pushed on, "I know I'm trying your patience, Master, but how about for twenty?" "I won't destroy it for twenty." He wouldn't quit, "Don't get angry, Master—this is the last time. What if you only come up with ten?" "For the sake of only ten, I won't destroy the city."

Gathering Together in Prayer

Prayer Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Hospitality—a warm, grace-filled welcome—is generosity. Each child of God is called to extend God's own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish and to grow and to give glory to God. Let's gather our gifts and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory

"The Lord's Prayer"

(Lee Dengler)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and
the glory, for ever and ever, amen.

***Benediction**

Go now as people in whom love and fidelity embrace; peace and justice kiss. Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, full of thanksgiving. And may God give good gifts in answer to your prayers. May Christ Jesus establish you in the faith; and may the Holy Spirit pour out heaven's riches upon you.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

“Jubilate Deo”

(Benoit)

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

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.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's **Call to Worship** is adapted from “Relentless Love,” by John van de Laar, from Sacredise (<https://sacredise.com/relentless-love/>).

The **Unison Gathering Prayer** is anonymous, and is often called “The Prayer of St. Francis,” (thought it can be traced back to France just prior to WW1).

The **Offertory Dedication** is adapted from Discipleship Ministries ((United Methodist - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/>)).

The **Benediction** is from LAUGHINGBIRD - Liturgical Resources with an Australian Voice (<https://laughingbird.net/index.php/occasion/cp12/2022-07-24/>)

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.