



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Ninth Sunday After Pentecost*  
*August 7, 2022*

## **Thoughts of Preparation**

The truth is that the treasure lies within our very selves.

--*Teresa of Avila*

Gratitude for the present moment and the fullness of life now is the true prosperity.

--*Eckhart Tolle, The Power of Now*

When the heart weeps for what it has lost, the spirit laughs for what it has found.

--*Sufi aphorism*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude**

*“Prelude on Beech Spring”*

*(Wilbur Held)*

### **Tower Bell**

#### **Meditative Call to Worship** *[Please remain seated]*

We thank You, Generous God, for the grace is represented in all we possess.

You have filled our lives with abundance and we thank You;

May we be Your channels of blessing to those in need.

You have given us friends and families, colleagues & companions, and we thank You;

May we be friends of the friendless...and companions to the lonely.

You have given us this community to strengthen our faith

To help us to serve You well;

May we be faithful followers and co-workers, building Your Kingdom in this world.

Receive our thanks and receive our prayers,

and let Your grace flow through them & through us

into the lives of others. For Jesus' sake.

Amen

**\*Prayer of Confession/Affirmation**

Let us share together an affirmation of faith.

We believe that horizons of hope are never fixed.

**They always move beyond, in the creativity of God.**

We believe that powers of evil cannot kill God.

**God walks on free and leaps ahead of us in the risen Christ of faith.**

We believe that the Spirit can never be confined. She dances forth in the world and is found in surprising places, leading us on until the end of time. We turn to Life, to that vast Creativity

**that empowers the universe as the ocean animates the wave,**

Seeking to let go of that which blocks our healing, and takes away our peace.

**May we open ourselves even to the wonder, mystery, and joy of Life!**

**\*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 15:1-6 [Common English Bible]**

After these events, the Lord's word came to Abram in a vision, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector. Your reward will be very great."

But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus." He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir."

The Lord's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." Then he brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them." He continued, "This is how many children you will have." Abram trusted the Lord, and the Lord recognized Abram's high moral character.

## **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**

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

#### **Offertory**

*"Praise! Praise!"*

*(G. F. Handel)*

Praise! Praise! Let every nation give praise to the Lord.

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all.

Let every nation give thanks to our God, resound joyful praise.

The glory and power of God we proclaim,

And sing with a loud voice the Lord's holy name.

**Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 1:1, 10-17** [Common English Bible]

The vision about Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw in the days of Judah's kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Hear the Lord's word, you leaders of Sodom. Listen to our God's teaching, people of Gomorrah!

What should I think about all your sacrifices? says the Lord.

I'm fed up with entirely burned offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts.

I don't want the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from you, this trampling of my temple's courts?

Stop bringing worthless offerings.

Your incense repulses me.

New moon, sabbath, and the calling of an assembly—I can't stand wickedness with celebration! I hate your new moons and your festivals. They've become a burden that I'm tired of bearing.

When you extend your hands, I'll hide my eyes from you. Even when you pray for a long time, I won't listen.

Your hands are stained with blood. Wash! Be clean!

Remove your ugly deeds from my sight. Put an end to such evil; learn to do good.

Seek justice: help the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

**Scripture Lesson: Luke 12:32-38** [Common English Bible]

"Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don't wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

"Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and

wait on them. Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn.

**Sermon**                      “Where Your Heart Is” Pastor Barry Bordenkircher

**\*Gathering at the Lord’s Table - Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**\*Thanksgiving**

God is the heart of life.

**And we are the heartbeat.**

May your hearts be filled with thanks and praise and songs of joy.

**We rejoice in the miracle of life and delight in our participation**

We give thanks and praise for all that is good in the world.

**For that mystery we name God and name Creator of heaven  
and earth and all that is.**

For the person we name Jesus

**and his message of peace, justice and inclusiveness that is the  
realm of God.**

For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit always present on  
the breath of life

**We give thanks for the love, peace and justice, for prosperity,  
strength and freedom, and for the presence of God in the midst  
of life.**

We remember the time when Jesus faced difficult decisions and  
destructive forces:

- in the days and nights of his searching,
- in finding ways to free others from images and ideas that kept them  
captive and dependent and fearful of God,
- in breaking down social and religious barriers,
- in facing failure, in facing death itself.

**When we too experience chaos in our lives may we find the  
courage to let go  
and trust in Your guiding, warming light.**

And we remember Jesus has shown us that life is stronger than death.

## **Recollection & Consecration**

### **Response:**

Jesus, human like us,

**reveals to us our true identity, temples of God's spirit.**

Jesus, human like us,

**reveals God present and active throughout human history.**

Jesus, human like us,

**reveals God-always-with-us in our everyday loving.**

Jesus, human like us,

**challenges us to let his story be our story also.**

So we break and share bread and drink the fruit of the vine,

**pledging ourselves to allow the spirit that moved in Jesus to  
move freely in our lives.**

## **Communion is Served**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Companion God, from the depths of our hearts to the heights of our minds, You are the enclosing hands, and the encircling arms, the fire of Life, Sustainer of each of us and every moment. As we have tasted these elements again, let them awaken us anew. May we see, touch, hear, taste, and smell Divine presence in every moment, and never cease to give thanks. Amen.**

**Hymn #72**

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

*(Faithfulness)*

(see last page)

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*“Praise To The Lord The Almighty”*

*(Diane Bish)*

### **Today's Worship Leaders:**

Preaching Today: Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: John Robson

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**

The *Call to Worship* is adapted from a prayer on John van de Laar's Sacredise worship site [[sacredise.com/may-we-be/](http://sacredise.com/may-we-be/)].

The following parts of the service are found at and adapted from/used with permission from Rex A E Hunt -

Liturgies [(<https://www.rexaehuntprogressivelgy.com/pentecost9c782022>);

- The Prayer of Confession//Affirmation, adapted from “An Affirmation of Faith; by Dorothy McRae-McMahon
- “Deep In The Human Heart” by William L Wallace
- “Creativity – The Canberra Affirmation” (George Stuart)
- The Communion liturgy

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy