



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Thirteenth Sunday After
Pentecost
September 4, 2022*

Thoughts of Preparation

One of the maddeningly enduring habits of the human race is to insist on domesticating God. We are determined to tame God. We figure out ways to harness God to our projects. We try to reduce God to a size that conveniently fits our plans and ambitions and tastes. We are pleased when we find that there are men and women coming alongside us, offering a rendition of gods or goddesses that give us what we want when we want it and on our own terms.

– *Dr. Eugene Peterson, Get Up Off Your Knees*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“My Jesus I Love Thee”
(Lilyanne and Isabella Thoroughman)

Tower Bell

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Most Loving God, goodness isn't always popular. There are those who doubt that it has value, that fear that goodness only leaves us vulnerable and unable to navigate the complexities of the real world.

But, we believe that the opposite is true, that it is goodness that must ultimately prevail, and that holds the key to the wholeness and happiness we seek.

And so we pray for goodness to infiltrate every un-good place,
**where callous self-interest humiliates and impoverishes others,
where casual disregard for the common good undermines
security and neighborliness,**

where unexamined or overstated fear addicts us to control,
**where our obsession with the immediate blinds us to the
consequences of our actions.**

Teach us the power of the good, the healing of the noble, the life of the praiseworthy,

**and capture our hearts that we may give ourselves to know
Your goodness – the only goodness that is truly worth
pursuing. Amen.**

***Call to Reconciliation**

Our sins and shortcomings are not to be hidden from God. Rather, we bring them into the Light and lay them on the Table, trusting that the One who shaped us for goodness will transform our brokenness into wholeness. Please join me as we pray together:

Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.

Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our self-centeredness and egocentricity, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept)

***Assurance of Pardon**

The God who calls us is the God who created us;

the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News—we are God's new creation!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. 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: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Common English Bible)

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. 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.

My bones weren't hidden from you when I was being put together in a secret place, when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me, before any one of them had yet happened. 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.

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

Jesus asks those who would follow him to count the cost of his path; we know what it cost him. What can we bring, give, and do without to join him on his journey. Are we willing to count the cost, and share his journey into the heart of the world's suffering and need?

Offertory *“Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart” Anna Laura Page*

Set me as a seal upon Your heart,
O God, for love is as strong as death.
The waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon Your heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a strong spirit within me.
Cast me not away, from Your presence
Restore unto me the joy of salvation.

Uphold me with Your Spirit,
Then I'll teach Your ways,
and sinners will be converted to You.

Scripture Lesson – Luke 14:25-33 (New Revised Standard Version
Updated Edition)

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Sermon *“Possessed and Attached”*
Pastor Barry Bordenkircher

***Sacrament of Holy Communion**

The Invitation

Communion Prayer (Unison)

When you really think about it, it's a small price to pay:

to release pride and the demand for vengeance, in favor of love and forgiveness;

It's a small price to pay:

to forego a few luxuries and conveniences, in favor of generosity and justice;

It's a small price to pay:

to delay gratification and deny addiction, in favor of sustainability and true enjoyment;

It's a small price to pay:

to deny fear and violence, in favor of listening and understanding;

It's a small price to pay:

to reject expediency and opportunism, in favor of doing the right thing;

It may seem like an immense cost,
it may appear to be more than we can give,
it may look like the most painful sacrifice;

but, when you think about it, when abundant life is in the equation, it's a small price, really.

Thank you, God, for the Life you offer;

Help us and call us back to this table when we chase a lesser, self-centered life, and keep giving us the courage to pay the price so we may walk with Jesus, become "living bread" and heal our world. Amen.

The Recollection & Consecration

Receiving the Elements

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Alive and enlivening God, in the simple and ordinary task of eating and drinking, in this simple and ordinary meal of bread of wine, You have sown into our spirits the supernatural and eternal seed of life.

And we are eternally thankful.

You have transformed this simple and ordinary gathering into Your Church - the messenger of abundant life.

And we are eternally thankful.

Now, God of our hearts, sow us into the world to be seeds of growth and nourishment and resurrection to all of God-imagined humanity.

We go as sent-ones, blessed with the gifts of God's whole-hearted acceptance, Jesus' world-hugging love, and the Spirit's life-sharing companionship. Amen.

***Hymn #354**

“Just As I Am”
(see last page)

(Woodworth)

***Benediction**

Go now and continue to offer prayers and thanksgiving for everyone. Be shrewd in dealing with the world around you but do not be seduced into serving wealth.

Weep for those who suffer and share faith and truth with all.

And may God welcome you with love; may Christ Jesus give you knowledge of the truth;

And may the Holy Spirit lead you into all godliness and dignity.

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

Postlude

“St. Anthony Chorale”

(Brahms/Haydn)

Worship Notes

Today's *Call to Worship* and *Prayer of Adoration and Confession* are from Sacredise, by Rev. John van de Laar ([/sacredise.com/proper-18c/](http://sacredise.com/proper-18c/)). The *Call to Reconciliation* and *Assurance* is adapted from Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/2010_08_01).

The Communion liturgy is adapted from *A Liturgy for the Celebration of Sacrifice*, also from from Sacredise, by Rev. John van de Laar. *The Benediction* is by Nathan Nettleton, rom the worship LaughingBird.net.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Dr. Charles 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.

Just As I Am

354

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

WOODWORTH
 L.M.