



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost*  
*September 18, 2022*

### Thoughts of Preparation

In the midst of winter, I found there was , within me, an invincible summer, and that makes me happy.

For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger -- something better, pushing right back.

--*Albert Camus*

Emotions, including those we mark as negative, have a wisdom of their own, Their own kind of "reason" – as critical to human continuity and planetary survival as the traditional Western notion of rationality.

-- *Miriam Greenspan, Healing through the Dark Emotions*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

*"Be Still My Soul" (Harold DeCou)*

#### **Tower Bell**

#### **\*Responsive Call to Worship**

Lord, the eyes of all look to You in hope; and You give them what they need.

**You open Your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.**

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—

**to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life - giving streams, to taste Your goodness and live.**

May the time we spend together in Your presence nourish our hearts and minds;

**may it strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples.**

For You alone are God,

**the Source and Sustainer of life. In Jesus' name, Amen**

#### **\*Invocation**

**\*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 13;6.2-7a [Good News Translation]**

How much longer will you forget me, Lord? Forever? How much longer will you hide yourself from me? How long must I endure trouble? How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night? How long will my enemies triumph over me?

Look at me, O Lord my God, and answer me. Restore my strength, don't let me die. Don't let my enemies say, "We have defeated him." Don't let them gloat over my downfall. I am worn out, O Lord; have pity on me!

Give me strength, I am completely exhausted and my whole being is deeply troubled. How long, O Lord, will you wait to help me?

Come and save me, Lord, in your mercy rescue me from death. In the world of the dead you are not remembered, no one can praise you there.

I am worn out with grief; every night my bed is damp from my weeping; my pillow is soaked with tears. I can hardly see; my eyes are so swollen from weeping.

I rely on your constant love; I will be glad, because you will rescue me. I will sing to you, O Lord, because you have been good to me.

**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**

God, in Jesus Christ, has given us much to be faithful for. Our tithes, gifts, and offerings may seem little in comparison to God's gifts to us, but we are called to be faithful over all that we have; our time, our talents, our gifts, and our service. May God bless us in our giving, that God's kingdom may be here with us on earth.

**Offertory**                    *“Great Great Morning”*                    (Craig Courtney)

**Scripture Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Good News Translation)**

I felt the powerful presence of the Lord, and his spirit took me and set me down in a valley where the ground was covered with bones. He led me all around the valley, and I could see that there were very many bones and that they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal man, can these bones come back to life?”

I replied, “Sovereign Lord, only you can answer that!”

He said, “Prophecy to the bones. Tell these dry bones to listen to the word of the Lord. Tell them that I, the Sovereign Lord, am saying to them: I am going to put breath into you and bring you back to life. I will give you sinews and muscles, and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you and bring you back to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been told. While I was speaking, I heard a rattling noise, and the bones began to join together. While I watched, the bones were covered with sinews and muscles, and then with skin. But there was no breath in the bodies.

God said to me, “Mortal man, prophecy to the wind. Tell the wind that the Sovereign Lord commands it to come from every direction, to breathe into these dead bodies, and to bring them back to life.”

So I prophesied as I had been told. Breath entered the bodies, and they came to life and stood up. There were enough of them to form an army.

God said to me, “Mortal man, the people of Israel are like these bones. They say that they are dried up, without any hope and with no future. So prophecy to my people Israel and tell them that I, the Sovereign Lord, am going to open their graves. I am going to take them out and bring them back to the land of Israel. When I open the graves where my people are buried and bring them out, they will know that I am the Lord. I will put my breath in them, bring them back to life, and let them live in their own land. Then they will know that I am the Lord. I have promised that I would do this—and I will. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

**Sermon**                    *“The Breath in the Bones”*

Pastor Barry Bordenkircher

**\*Hymn #61**                    *“There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy”*

**\*Benediction**

By our words and deeds, we show God that we are faithful with the gifts we have received.

**Whether over a little or a lot, we seek to be faithful stewards of**

## **God's gifts.**

Take the gifts of God into the world, remembering the poor, the least, and the lost.

**We will take God's gifts to a hurting world, spreading a healing balm in all that we do.**

**Postlude**                      *"Alla Breve and Fugue"*                      (*Louis Marchand*)

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

Preaching Today: 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.

### **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Call to Worship:* by Christine Longht [re:Worship](http://re:Worship) [[re-Worship.blogspot.com](http://re-Worship.blogspot.com)]. *Confession, Words of Assurance, Offeratory, and Benediction:* [Ministry Matters](http://www.ministrymatters.com) [[www.ministrymatters.com//worshipentry/4170/worship-elements-september-18-2022](http://www.ministrymatters.com//worshipentry/4170/worship-elements-september-18-2022)]

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;  
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;  
4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,



there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.  
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.  
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.



WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)  
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913)

WELLESLEY  
8.7.8.7.