

August 16, 2020
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: Lord, we come to you this day with so many concerns on our heart

Congregation: Lord, hear our cries.

All sing: *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”* (Sing one time through)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, listen to your children pray-ing. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

Pastor: Lord, fill our hearts with praise and our lives with your love.

Congregation: Lord, hear our prayers!

All sing: *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”* (Sing one time through)

Pastor: Lord, strengthen us in service to you and give us abundant grace

Congregation: Lord, hear our prayers!

All sing: *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”* (Sing one time through)

Pastor: Lord, be with us today as we come to you from all life’s circumstances. Give us courage and strength and fill us with your love and grace that we may serve you effectively and fully.

Congregation: Lord, hear our prayers.

All sing: *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”* (Sing one time through)

¹ Townley, Nancy C. “Worship Connection: August 16, 2020: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost.” Unless indicated otherwise, all of today’s liturgy is from this resource. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/8353/worship-connection-august-16-2020>

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord hears our prayers and Romans 10:13 assures us that “all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Let us offer a prayer of confession...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

Pastor: Almighty Father; we enter your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from you and the things we try to conceal from others. We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to do wrong, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to forgive ourselves. Lord have mercy and forgive us through Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on John 3:16 -18)

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us rejoice in the good news that God loved the world so much, that God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. All those who believe - are not condemned but have eternal life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, “Everyone, leave now!” So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. ² He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh’s household heard him. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I’m Joseph! Is my father really still alive?” His brothers couldn’t respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me,” and they moved closer. He said, “I’m your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. ⁵ Now, don’t be upset and don’t be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. ⁶ We’ve already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. ⁷ God sent me before you to make sure you’d survive^[a] and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. ⁸ You didn’t send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

⁹ “Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t delay. ¹⁰ You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. ¹¹ I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won’t starve, since the famine will still last five years.’ ¹² You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I’m speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you’ve seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. ¹⁵ He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

² Engle, Paul. “Baker’s Worship Handbook.” Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, “Listen and understand. ¹¹ It’s not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God’s sight. It’s what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person.”

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. ¹⁴ Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵ Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

¹⁶ Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? ¹⁷ Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. ¹⁹ Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. ²⁰ These contaminate a person in God’s sight. But eating without washing hands doesn’t contaminate in God’s sight.”

²¹ From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” ²³ But he didn’t respond to her at all. His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

²⁵ But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

²⁶ He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.”

²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

SERMON**Rev. Laura C. Bair****PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

All: Lord, what a blessing it is to come together in this community of faith. We travel here from all walks of life, from different ages and stages, and are welcomed in your love and your presence! Today we bring before you the names of loved ones who are struggling with loss, with illness, with depression, with addiction, with alienation from those that they love. Be with each of them. Lay your hand of healing gently over their lives and pour out your balm of peace on them. Help us to reach out to be of service to each other in Jesus’ name. Lord, we also bring to you situations of celebration: birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, family gatherings, special occasions which lift us up and remind us of the goodness that there is in life. Breathe your spirit into these wonderful events that all who gather may rejoice and celebrate the blessings you have given each of us. Keep our hearts and minds open for your reconciling word for us; for we ask this in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray, saying: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has blessed us abundantly! Isn't it WONDERFUL to be able to return a portion of those blessings to God? Let us be generous, like our Lord, and pray that we, and our gifts, will be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. We dedicate all using the Offertory Prayer as printed in our bulletins.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. Amen.

HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Bulletin, Page 5

BENEDICTION³

Pastor: May God bless you and keep you.
 May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

All: Amen.

³ Based on Numbers 6:24-26

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My Hope Is Built

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.