Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic
July 11, 2021
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PRELUDE
GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP
Pastor: As we gather this morning…
All people: God is here.
Pastor: Praise God in this outdoor space…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Praise God in our distant gathering spaces…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Walking, running, standing, sitting…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Down in the valleys, up in the hills…
All people: God is here.
Pastor: Praise God all you flying birds…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Praise God all you digging worms and animals that crawl on the ground…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Praise God all you, lofty trees and blooming flowers…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Praise God all you beetles, bugs, and bees…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Praise God, oh clouds, sun, moon, and rain…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Say it again to each other now…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Shout it to the world around…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: All creation sings God’s praise…
All people: God is here!
Pastor: Let us join in that praise and say…
All people: God is here!

HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

OPENING PRAYER
Pastor: Creator God in praise and adoration, our spirits dance before you today. You have created this wondrous universe and all the magnificent things within it. You have blessed us with so much throughout our lives, even to this day of praise and thanksgiving. Let our spirits, soar! Let our hearts sing boldly of your wondrous love. We celebrate your love and presence with us, and it is in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer.

All people: Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All people: In the midst of our “summer” lives, O Lord, so many things have claimed our attention. We worked hard this year to earn a little rest and recreation, to break away from the stresses of

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1 Williams, Jeremy. “God is Here – Outdoor Praise Shout.” Content used with permission: Williams/engageworship.org
our everyday living. But in the midst of all the change, we confess to pushing our worship of you, within the fellowship of our faith community aside. We have focused so much on our needs for physical space and peace that we have neglected our spiritual hungers and thirst. Forgive us when we are tempted to stray from our worship of you and focus entirely on ourselves and our own wants and needs. As we celebrate this day, help us to remember all the wondrous things you continue to do for us. Help us to remember we are needed in this community of believers. Let us look at all you have created with delight. And when we encounter situations in which sorrow and hurt abound, help us to be ready to be present, to offer hope and peace. Be with us in these warm days of summer and continue to bind us together and prepare us for the ministry and mission you’ve created for our future, together. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
Pastor: Beloved people of God, those created in the image of the Creator, hear this Good News: There is abundant love to be found through Jesus Christ. Seek Jesus in all you do and know how much God loves you! There is abundant forgiveness in Christ’s name for all our sins, all the ways we have missed the mark. There is abundant grace for us all! Live into God’s ways, and know that you are loved and forgiven, and an essential member of Christ’s body. Therefore, practice kindness and show compassion, seek justice and mercy, and you will know God now and for all time.

All people: Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE
Pastor: As we have been given peace, so let us pass the peace of Christ to one another, from wherever we are, with a smile and a nod, a wave, or a two-finger peace sign along with the hearty exclamation: “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Congregation: And also, with you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 6:1-19

GOSPEL READING Mark 6:14-29

SERMON Rev. Laura Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER
All people: 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 LITANY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION 4
Pastor: In the beginning…
All people: The dance began to swirl and ponder…
Pastor: In the beginning, all was dark…
All people: And the dance cast forth bright light…
Pastor: In the beginning, the earth burst forth with wondrous things, creatures of all sorts, mountains and hills, vast seas and rivers, valleys and desert areas…
All people: And the Lord of the Dance saw that it was good and blessed it all…
Pastor: In our beginning, God blessed us…
All people: And the dance went on, throughout lives, into all that we have done and said…
Pastor: Our God is still creating new beginnings…
All people: Our tithes and offerings and the gifts of our time and talent are an integral part of bringing those beginnings to full fruition…
Pastor: In the midst of all our ministry, God is here - blessing us abundantly and inviting us to bring the

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whole of ourselves into the Lord’s dance…

All people: This dance, called Life, is everywhere – in the light and the dark. It is in places of hope and places of deepest sorrow and tragedy. We are blessed to be a blessing. We are blessed to invite others into the dance.

Pastor: So how shall we dance for God?

All people: We shall live lives of hope and peace, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ and all that he taught us, so that others may dance. We shall give generously and participate in the life and ministry of this body of Christ. We shall joyfully and faithfully dance with one another and praise God!

Pastor: Praise be to the Lord of the Dance, the Lord of Creation, the Lord of Life.

All people: Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION 6

Pastor: Beloved of God, my sisters and brothers in Christ - celebrate the life you have been given!
Live your life with all your might, as a dance to God’s glory.

All people: We will live for God’s glory!
Our life’s dance will glorify our Creator!
Amen and AMEN!

POSTLUDE

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5 Author: Carter Sydney, American Shaker Tune. Music: Stainer & Bell Ltd. Administered by Hope Publishing Company. For use solely with Song Select Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. (CCLI song #1528365) This video is used with permission by Franklin Schaefer. On 7/6/21 Mr. Schaefer wrote: Yes, please feel free to use it as you see fit. You can also download this video for free along with chord sheets and a PPT at https://javacasa.com/franklynschaefer/music.htm

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I would not dance and they would not follow me; I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they were hard to dance with the devil on your back; they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame, the whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the dance and I still go on. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black; it's I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut me down and I leapt up high,
1 All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing.
2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven so long,
3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear,
4 Dear mother earth, who day by day Unfoldest blessings on our way,
5 And all ye men of tender heart, For giving others, take your part.

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing.
O praise Him, Allelui a! Thou burning sun with golden beam,
O praise Him, Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
O praise Him, Alleluia! Thou fire so masterful and bright,
O sing ye, Allelui a! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son.

Thou silver moon with silver gleam, O praise Him, O
Ye lights of evening, find a voice, O praise Him, O
That givest man both warmth and light, O praise Him, O
Let them His glory al so show, O praise Him, O
And praise the Spirit, Three in One, O praise Him, O

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

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