

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

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PRELUDE

*Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty*¹
*O Jesus, I Have Promised*²
*God of Our Fathers*³

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 145)

All people: Merciful God, we gather to offer you our praise and thanksgiving for the unfailing love you have shown toward us - generation after generation and for the compassion you shower upon us, day after day. You alone are our God. We are your people. We pray that your Holy Spirit would move among us as we worship. Open our hearts and our minds to see you at work among us, encouraging, challenging, uplifting, and inspiring, as each one has need. May our worship bring honor and glory to you; in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*⁴

1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,

D. C. for Refrain
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: In the hymn we just sang, we spoke of yearning to draw closer to Jesus. We acknowledged our weakness and a need for help in “keeping from all wrong.” Let us draw near them, in confession, trusting that Jesus will hear our plea, God will grant forgiveness, and the Spirit will sustain us in our journey of transformation. Let us pray...

¹ Public Domain. Joachim Neander (1680); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863)

² Public Domain. John Ernest Bode (1869)

³ Public Domain. "God of Our Fathers" is a 19th-century American Christian hymn, written in 1876 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence. The hymn was written by Daniel C. Roberts, a priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church serving, at the time, as rector of St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal churches in Brandon, Vermont. Roberts had served in the American Civil War in the 84th Ohio Infantry.

⁴ Public Domain. Author: Anonymous

PRAYER OF CONFESSION ⁵

All: *Merciful God, forgive us when we are paralyzed by confusion and doubt. Strengthen our faith, that we may not only believe, but may be filled with the power to help and heal. When others reject or refuse our ministry, help us to be forgiving and grace filled. Grant us the courage to accept those things that cannot be changed, that we may be freed from anger and resentment. Forgive us when our disappointment clouds our wisdom and confuses our actions. Guide us on this path of ministry, that we may be filled with the joy of our ministry. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Psalm 130:3-5)

Pastor: If the Lord kept a record of our sins, who could ever survive? The Good News is that our God offers forgiveness.

Congregation: **We put our hope in God's Word. We can count on the Lord!**

All: *Hallelujah! Amen!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: As we have been given peace, so let us pass the peace of Christ to one another, from our pews, with a smile and a nod, a wave, or a two-finger peace sign along and a hearty exclamation: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Congregation: **And also, with you.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 5:1-10

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Nora Foust

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: *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: As the disciples proclaimed the Gospel in not only word, but in deed as well, so may we do likewise with our tithes and offerings.

Today, I want to highlight how your financial offerings provide for the upkeep of the church facility, which not only blesses this worshipping community, but also the local community.

This facility houses the Northeastern Food Pantry, provides 3 Girl Scout Troops a place to safely meet.

New is the addition of two outreach ministries. We will be providing rental space for two local food business entrepreneurs.

Also, the AA Group which used to meet here, but stopped due to the pandemic, is also reconsidering making this a meeting site once more.

And let us not forget all that we do here – worship, fellowship, and hold Bible Studies. Also, Pastor Laura provides counsel for members of our congregation as well as members of our local community.

So, today, as we highlight how our financial offerings maintain the upkeep of the church facility, which is used for God's purposes, I say, "Well done good and faithful servants in your generous and faithful giving!!!" Well done! Let us now dedicate today's offering with a prayer of dedication, knowing we *ARE* making a difference!

Let us pray together...

⁵ from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Bless and use all our endeavors, O God, visible through these gifts and our lives as we seek to be strong, yet humble followers of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

HYMN

*Living for Jesus*⁶
(Sing Verses 1, 2 & 4 only)

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go beloved of God to live for Jesus.
May you go, secure in the knowledge of God's guidance.
Assured of Jesus' abundant grace,
And equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*⁷

⁶ Public Domain. Thomas O. Chisholm. 1917

⁷ Public Domain. The Rev. John Fawcett, D. D.. 1773

Living for Jesus

1. Liv - ing for Je - sus a life that is true,
 2. Liv - ing for Je - sus who died in my place,
 3. Liv - ing for Je - sus wher - ev - er I am,
 4. Liv - ing for Je - sus through earth's lit - tle while,

striv - ing to please him in all that I do,
 bear - ing on Cal - vary my sin and dis - grace,
 do - ing each du - ty in his ho - ly name,
 my dear - est trea - sure, the light of his smile,

yield - ing al - le - giance, glad - heart - ed and free,
 such love con - strains me to an - swer his call,
 will - ing to suf - fer af - flic - tion or loss,
 seek - ing the lost ones he died to re - deem,

this is the path - way of bless - ing for me.
 fol - low his lead - ing and give him my all.
 deem - ing each tri - al a part of my cross.
 bring - ing the wea - ry to find rest in him.

Refrain

O Je - sus, Lord and Sav - ior, I give my - self to thee; for
 thou, in thy a - tone - ment, didst give thy - self for me; I
 own no oth - er mas - ter, my heart shall be thy throne, my
 life I give, hence - forth to live, O Christ, for thee a - lone.