

Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2020

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GREETING

Pastor: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 86)

Pastor: God hears the cry of the needy, and does not wait for us to call before coming to our aid;

Congregation: **While we were still lost in our brokenness and sin,
God came to us,
lived among us,
died our death,
and rose to lead us into life.**

Pastor: And so, we come to worship, to offer God our devotion and love.
our thanksgiving and praise.

All: *For God alone is worthy! Praise be to our God!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

Pastor: God, our world desperately needs your compassion and grace:

All: *We are at war and need to learn peace and understanding, We are greedy and selfish and need to learn to serve and to share the abundance of your world, We are impatient and careless and need to learn to use this world's resources wisely and sustainably, We are callous and judgmental and need to learn to care for and to befriend one another, And we are among those who are sick, grieving, lonely, broken and wounded.*

(Silent personal prayers of confession are offered)

Pastor: Hear our prayers, Lord, and answer. Teach us to live as those who give and receive compassion, even as you have been compassionate toward us.

All: *Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Psalm 86)

Pastor: Children of God, hear this good news: The Lord is forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on him. Our God is slow to anger and compassionate.

Congregation: **May I never be put to shame; may the Lord continue to teach me his ways and remain steadfast and faithful. The Lord has heard my prayer for mercy. In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered with grace and pardon.**

All: *I will praise the Lord my God, with all my heart and glorify his name forever. Thanks be to God for amazing grace that saves a sinner like me!*

¹ von de Laar, John. "Liturgy of Compassion." 2008 Sacredise. <https://sacredise.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/A-Liturgy-Of-Compassion.pdf>. 15 June 2020.

HEBREW READING - Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-21 (The Message)

¹⁻⁴ GOD visited Sarah exactly as he said he would; GOD did to Sarah what he promised: Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a son in his old age, and at the very time God had set. Abraham named him Isaac. When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded.

⁵⁻⁶ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born.

Sarah said,

God has blessed me with laughter
and all who get the news will laugh with me!

⁷ She also said,

Whoever would have suggested to Abraham
that Sarah would one day nurse a baby!
Yet here I am! I've given the old man a son!

⁸ The baby grew and was weaned. Abraham threw a big party on the day Isaac was weaned.

⁹⁻¹⁰ One day Sarah saw the son that Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham, poking fun at her son Isaac. She told Abraham, "Get rid of this slave woman and her son. No child of this slave is going to share inheritance with my son Isaac!"

¹¹⁻¹³ The matter gave great pain to Abraham—after all, Ishmael was his son. But God spoke to Abraham, "Don't feel badly about the boy and your maid. Do whatever Sarah tells you. Your descendants will come through Isaac. Regarding your maid's son, be assured that I'll also develop a great nation from him—he's your son, too."

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Abraham got up early the next morning, got some food together and a canteen of water for Hagar, put them on her back and sent her away with the child. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. When the water was gone, she left the child under a shrub and went off, fifty yards or so. She said, "I can't watch my son die." As she sat, she broke into sobs.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Meanwhile, God heard the boy crying. The angel of God called from Heaven to Hagar, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy and knows the fix he's in. Up now; go get the boy. Hold him tight. I'm going to make of him a great nation."

¹⁹ Just then God opened her eyes. She looked. She saw a well of water. She went to it and filled her canteen and gave the boy a long, cool drink.

²⁰⁻²¹ God was on the boy's side as he grew up. He lived out in the desert and became a skilled archer. He lived in the Paran wilderness. And his mother got him a wife from Egypt.

EPISTLE READING - Romans 5:1-8 (New International Version)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 10:26-39 (The Living Bible)

Liturgist: We now turn to today's Gospel reading, where we hear Jesus invites us to pick up our cross and follow him, while explaining the cost of doing so. This is Matthew, chapter 10, verses 26 through 33.

²⁶ But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when the truth will be revealed: their secret plots will become public information.

²⁷ "What I tell you now in the gloom, shout abroad when daybreak comes. What I whisper in your ears, proclaim from the housetops!

²⁸ "Don't be afraid of those who can kill only your bodies—but can't touch your souls! Fear only God who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Not one sparrow (What do they cost? Two for a penny?) can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. ³⁰ And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't worry! You are more valuable to him than many sparrows.

³² "If anyone publicly acknowledges me as his friend, I will openly acknowledge him as my friend before my Father in heaven. ³³ But if anyone publicly denies me, I will openly deny him before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, rather, a sword. ³⁵ I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— ³⁶ a man's worst enemies will be right in his own home! ³⁷ If you love your father and mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.

³⁹ "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will save it.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let all the people say, "Thanks be to Christ." (wait)

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER² & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of infinite compassion and grace, expand our capacity to love and to pray in the midst of all we do not understand and cannot comprehend. Walk with us through our fear, our outrage, and our pain, and enable us, as we are confronted with the fragility of life, to put our trust in your, our Rock and our Refuge. We pray through Christ who taught us to pray:

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 (Based on Psalm 116:1-2)

Pastor: The Psalmist writes: I love our God, who heard my cries and prayers! Let us offer our gifts to God at this time, to support the life and work of the people of God in our community, and around the world.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Holy One, accept these gifts and multiply them so that the wonder of your love, and justice and peace may be known throughout the world! Amen.

HYMN*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past***Bulletin, Page 6****BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Now may you go from this time of worship, having found challenging nourishment for your soul. Go now to live as followers of Christ; as people of compassion; as those who seek to serve and heal the world.

All: And now may God's presence, God's love, and God's favor go with us, and remain with us always. Amen.

² Bryan, Rev. Harriet. Internet Image. The people of the United Methodist Church. 15 June 2020

Amazing Grace!

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
 soon bears us all away;
 We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
 fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
 our hope for years to come,
 Still be our God while trou-bles last,
 and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
 William Croft, 1708