

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

November 6, 2020

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." – Corrie Ten Boom

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

PRELUDE

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 106:1-5, New International Version)

Pastor: Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

All: His love endures forever!

Pastor: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord
or fully declare his praise?

*All: Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.*

Pastor: Remember [us], Lord, when you show favor to your people,
come to [our] aid when you save them,

*All: that [we] may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that [we] may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise!*

HYMN

*The God of Abraham Praise*¹

Hymnal, #61

CALL TO CONFESSION²

Pastor: With our lips, we sing praises to the God of our ancestors.
Yet, if the thoughts of our minds and hearts were exposed,
the charade – our sins of deceitfulness and duplicity - would be revealed.
The Psalmist invites us to look in the mirror at ourselves, saying:

*All:³ We have sinned, even as our ancestors did.
We have done wrong and acted wickedly.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁴

Pastor: Therefore, let us seek God's mercy,
that we might be again, be the honorable and righteous children of God.

All: Confession is not an easy or a pleasant thing to do. We would like to think that we have been good and faithful disciples, following your way. But we know in our hearts the many ways in which we have turned our backs on you and rejected your will for us. Like the people in the wilderness, we create for ourselves idols and worship them, only to discover their shallowness and emptiness for our lives. And we wonder what went wrong. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Help us to be open to your will for our lives. We know what you want us to do. Give us the persistence and the courage to do your will. Heal us from our wayward actions and attitudes. Remind us that we must reach out to others in compassion and peace. Merciful God, come to us this day with your healing power and help us again to be your disciples, offering hope and peace to your hurting and wounded world. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

¹ Public Domain. CCLI #3344026.

² Rev. Laura Baker wrote the Call to Confession and introduction to the Confession, based on Psalm 106:1-6.

³ Psalm 106:6

⁴ Townley, Nancy. Prayer of Confession (Used as printed) & Words of Assurance (adapted by Rev. Laura Baker on October 31, 2022): <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1717/worship-connection-october-4-2020>

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God, who has never strayed from you, is with you.
God will heal your hearts and direct your steps.
Place the totality of your life in God's loving care.

All: *Amen.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

HYMN

*Savior, Like a Shepherd*⁵

Hymnal, #461

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Exodus 32:1-14 (Good News Translation)

EPISTLE READING - Philippians 3:4-14 (Good News Translation)

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Luke 15:1-7 (Good News Translation)

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION⁶

Liturgist: The words and worship here in church on a Sunday morning are beautiful, but God cares just as much about what we do in every other hour of the week, and about what happens here at Starview United Church of Christ throughout the week. We are partners with God and with one another in marvelous ministries; and so, the giving of our talents and time, are every bit as important as the giving of our financial resources. So, let us take a moment to silently reflect upon our personal acts of stewardship before dedicating ourselves and our gifts to God, in prayer.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL REFLECTION

Hymnal, #259

OFFERING PRAYER⁷

All: *Holy One, you guide our lives with truth and love. You invite us to accept you with joy. Yet, challenges to live as your disciples come with this acceptance. Servant leadership can seem tedious. We struggle to balance our desire to serve ourselves first and your call to serve others first. We prayerfully present these tithes and offerings. May they symbolize our renewed commitment to holding you as the guiding leader of our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

HYMN

*Jesus, Calls us O'er the Tumult*⁸

Hymnal, #207

BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26, New King James Version)

POSTLUDE

⁵ Public Domain. CCLI #24078

⁶ Adapted by Rev. Laura Baker on October 31, 2022. "Offering Invitation: November 2, 2022: https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555

⁷ Bell, David S. "Offertory Prayers: October 2, 2022 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost." <http://davidsbell.org/offertory-prayers/>

⁸ Public Domain. CCLI #68900.