

PRELUDE

The Commandment of the Lord (Brindle)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 90)

Pastor: God, we know you are with us.

Congregation: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Pastor: You have showered your love upon all generations,
since the beginning of time.

Congregation: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Pastor: Guide us now through this time of worship, and into the week ahead.

Congregation: From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

CONFESSION OF SIN¹

Pastor: God's love for humanity is from everlasting to everlasting and God asks us, those created in God's image, to be loving as well, even when loving is difficult. Let us confess how we fall short in following the commandments of loving.

All people: Merciful God, it is not easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you. Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. We ask in Jesus' Name.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, hear the Good News: God's love has been poured over us to heal and nourish our spirits. We have been forgiven. The challenge is to now go forth in peace, hope, and love to a hurting world.

All people: WE WILL GET RIGHT TO IT! Thanks be to God who mercies never end. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Garden

Cathy Rentzel, Vocal Soloist

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Good News Translation)

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Mount Pisgah east of Jericho, and there the LORD showed him the whole land: the territory of Gilead as far north as the town of Dan; the entire territory of Naphtali; the territories of Ephraim and Manasseh; the territory of Judah as far west as the Mediterranean Sea; the southern part of Judah; and the plain that reaches from Zoar to Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then the LORD said to Moses, "This is the land that I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob I would give to their descendants. I have let you see it, but I will not let you go there."

So, Moses, the LORD's servant, died there in the land of Moab, as the LORD had said he would. The LORD buried him in a valley in Moab, opposite the town of Bethpeor, but to this day no one knows the exact place of his burial. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; he was as strong as ever, and his eyesight was still good. The people of Israel mourned for him for thirty days in the plains of Moab.

¹ Townley, Nancy C. Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost: Sunday, October 25, 2020. The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession were adapted for our worship service needs. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1805/worship-connection-october-25-2020>

Joshua son of Nun was filled with wisdom, because Moses had appointed him to be his successor. The people of Israel obeyed Joshua and kept the commands that the LORD had given them through Moses. There has never been a prophet in Israel like Moses; the LORD spoke with him face-to-face. No other prophet has ever done miracles and wonders like those that the LORD sent Moses to perform against the king of Egypt, his officials, and the entire country. No other prophet has been able to do the great and terrifying things that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING - Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (Living Bible)

Liturgist: Lord, through all the generations you have been our home!
Before the mountains were created, before the earth was formed,
you are God without beginning or end.

**Congregation: You speak, and [humans] turn back to dust.
A thousand years are but as yesterday to you! They are like a single hour!**

Liturgist: We glide along the tides of time as swiftly as a racing river
and vanish as quickly as a dream.

**Congregation: We are like grass that is green in the morning
but mowed down and withered before the evening shadows fall.**

Liturgist: We die beneath your anger, O God.
We are overwhelmed by your wrath.

**Congregation: You spread out our sins before you—our secret sins—
and you see them all, O God.
No wonder the years are long and heavy here beneath your wrath.
All our days are filled with sighing.**

Liturgist: Seventy years are given us! And some may even live to eighty.
But even the best of these years are often empty and filled with pain;
soon they disappear, and we are gone.

**Congregation: Who can realize the terrors of your anger?
Which of us can fear you as he should?**

Liturgist: Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are;
help us to spend them as we should.

**Congregation: God, come and bless us!
How long will you delay?
Turn your anger away from us.**

Liturgist: Satisfy us in our earliest youth with your loving-kindness,
giving us constant joy to the end of our lives.
Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery!
Replace the evil years with good.

**Congregation: Let us see your miracles again.
Let our children see glorious things, the kind you used to do,
and let the Lord our God favor us and give us success.**

All people: May God give permanence to all we do.

NEW TESTAMENT READING - Matthew 22:34-46 (New International Version)

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “He is the son of David.”

Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah ‘my Lord’? For David said,

‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.”’

Since David called the Messiah ‘my Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?”

No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

Rev. Laura Bair

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 (Based on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8)

Liturgist: My friends in Christ, the Lord, has entrusted us with the awe-inspiring task of sharing the message of the Gospel. We know that we cannot simply give money and expect Christ’s saving message to be spread. We must consistently give ourselves by offering our time, talents, gifts, and service. Let each of us take a full minute to reflect in silence on what we’ve been given and what will give in return to share God’s Good News. (Full moment of silent reflection on one’s stewardship of time, talent, and financial resources)

OFFERING PRAYER²

Liturgist: Please join me now in dedicating our gifts to the work of the Gospel.

All people: *Loving God, your message of love is from everlasting to everlasting. Therefore, stir within us the courage to be Christian stewards through our daily living – in word and action. Accept our gifts as a symbol of our love and commitment to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

HYMN

God Be With You ‘til we Meet Again

End of Bulletin

BENEDICTION³

Pastor: As you go from this place, remember this: it is God who reigns!
God alone is robed with majesty and armed with strength.
God’s kingdom, alone, is from everlasting to everlasting.
It is God who holds our world and our lives securely.
So, go in steadfast faithfulness,
knowing that the God who goes with you
is greater and more powerful
than anything or anyone else you will face this week.

Congregation: Amen!

² Bell, David S. Offertory Prayers: October 25, 2020 (adapted) <http://www.davidbell.org/offertory-prayers/>

³ Based on Psalm 93. Benedictions. re:Worship. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/benediction-psalm-93.html>

Pastor: Let's witness to that Good News once more with even greater conviction!
All people: AMEN and AMEN!

POSTLUDE *The Lord Gives us His Command* (Marks)

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 434

1-4. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's
un - seen wings, pro - tect - ing, hide you, dai - ly man - na
when life's per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing
keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - ening

care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain
Till we meet till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet;

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
till we meet, till we meet,