

September 12, 2021
Service of Word and Sacrament

PRELUDE

*He is Lord¹
Bible Trivia on Peace
Home is Where the Heart Is² (Jones)*

ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Old Testament, Psalm 46)

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength. In times of trouble, we will not fear.

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength.

Liturgist: Though the earth should change, and the mountains shake.

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength.

Pastor: Though the waters roar and our security threatened,

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength.

Liturgist: The Lord is our strength and our might. God is our salvation.

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength. In times of trouble, we will not fear.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Based on Old Testament, Zechariah 4:6)

Pastor: O God, who is our refuge and strength, we gather to worship even as we continue to remember, respond, and recover from the events of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath. We remember how we felt as we witnessed those attacks, and the mere mention of that date affects us still. We grieve the loss of life, the families that have been torn apart, the guise of national security cracked, and the wars and violence, which continue to wreak havoc in our communities, and around the globe. Your Holy Word tells us that we keep going “not by might, nor by power, but by your Holy Spirit.” Strengthen us, Lord, for the challenge of justice, forgiveness, and the rebuilding of relationships; challenge us when we veer off course; guide our feet as you lead us on the journey into abundant life for all. We pray in the name of Christ, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah³

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GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-43

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Based on the Epistle, Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Pastor: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress; shall persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Congregation: NO! In all things, we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

¹ Public Domain. CCLI Song # 23839.

² Hymn Preludes for Organ – Book 6 #00403 Jackman Music

³ Public Domain. CCLI Song # 2690874, John Hughes | Marty Parks | Peter Williams | William Williams

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE, CHIME TOLLING, and CONFESSON

The tolling of twenty chimes - one for each year since September 11, 2001.

The tolling of chimes is to remember the dead and dying.

Pastor: On September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked by terrorists. Thousands perished in and around the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The victims were Americans and citizens of over 90 other countries. We pause today to remember those who have died. We remember too, that our God is merciful and promises eternal rest. We gather, with others across this great nation, still mourning, so great a loss of life, still living under the possibility of more evil deeds, and still at war with terrorists – domestic and abroad. We gather as a nation “under God,” and will full trust in God’s love, compassion, and justice. Let us call to mind the events of September 11, 2001, and remember...

Toll the 1st chime.

Pastor: Almighty God, you delivered your ancient people from slavery and, in the fullness of time, sent Jesus to show us the path through forgiveness to newness of life. As we remember the events of September 11, 2001, and the 2 decades of war since, we find ourselves caught between memories that haunt us and the hope that comes from you. Mere mention of the date launches a myriad of thoughts, images, and emotions. For some, the events are still very fresh, while for others there is a greater distance. (*Time of silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 2nd chime.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: ***Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the many, many Americans who died due to the events of that day, as well as the 236 citizens from more than 90 other countries. In total: 2977 victims and 19 hijackers.***

Toll the 3rd chime.

Liturgist: We remember the innocent victims who died that day or since and our hearts are moved to grief. We remember the broken families, orphans, co-workers, and friends who grieve the death of their loved ones who were at their places of employment or traveling for business or leisure. We remember all who grieve. (*Moment of silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 4th chime.

Liturgist: Let us pray together.

All: ***Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the 246 people on the four planes (not including the hijackers): 40 aboard United Flight 93 that went down in Shanksville, PA; 87 aboard American Flight 11, which was the first to hit the World Trade Center; 60 aboard United Flight 175, which was the second to hit the World Trade Center; 59 aboard American Flight 77 that hit the Pentagon, and 2606 people in New York City who were either in the Twin Towers or on the ground below.***

Toll the 5th chime.

Pastor: We remember the selfless women and men who bravely served as first responders, some of whom died or were injured in the process of serving. We thank you for them and for all who contributed toward recovery at Ground Zero in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., in a field near Shanksville, PA or anywhere around the globe where people gathered to comfort or to pray for others. We lift a prayer for their healing, safety, and well-being, for their families, and for their civic and faith communities. (*Time of silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 6th chime.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: ***Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the 411 emergency workers who responded to the scene, including 342 firefighters, 10 paramedics, 23 New York City police officers, and 37 Port Authorities.***

Toll the 7th chime.

Liturgist: We remember the selfless men and women who bravely serve through the Armed Forces in this country, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the globe; we remember the sacrifices of those who died or were wounded in the process of serving. We thank you for them and their service. We lift our prayers for healing, safety, and well-being, for their families, and for their civic and faith communities. (*Time of silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 8th chime.

Liturgist: Let us pray together.

All: ***Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the 125 men and women who died at the Pentagon that day, 55 of which were military personnel.***

Toll the 9th chime.

Pastor: War is never an easy choice. We, as a nation, are still conflicted about that decision. Some of us believe that war is never justified, some of us feel deceived, while still others of us believe that a military response is exactly right, and some of us just don't know what to believe. Help us, O God, to bring an end to war as we work for justice in ways that are peaceful. (*Time of silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 10th chime.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: ***Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the loved ones of those who died in the ongoing wars. We remember the thousands of American soldiers who have died fighting war on land, at sea, and in the air with Iraq and Afghanistan since the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7, 2001, where 31,994 lives were lost; Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began with the invasion of Iraq on March 19, 2003 and cost the lives of 20,149 service people; Operation New Dawn, which launched on September 1, 2010 and ended with the loss of 298 lives, Operation Inherent Resolve, in which 269 lives were lost, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, which resulted in 597 lives lost in Afghanistan since December 31, 2014. We remember the non-combatant civilians, contractors, aid workers, journalists, and other allied NATO state members, who lost their lives to hostile fire, accidents, suicide, or illness. We remember the most recent attack that killed 13 American service members and more than 200 Afghans, while trying to evacuate at Kabul Airport. We remember the many Americans and Afghan allies left behind and whose lives remain at risk of retribution from terrorists.***

Toll the 11th chime.

Liturgist: In these twenty years, much has been done in the name of religious zeal or patriotic fervor that makes a mockery of your name, O Lord. Our actions have not always been the most honorable. We have killed non-combatant civilians and sent others fleeing from their homeland as refugees. Deliver us from our own desire for revenge. Deliver us from faith that fails to see your image in others, from willing bondage to our own thoughts and desires from our reluctance to enter your beloved community where you promise all people shall dwell in peace. (*Time for silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 12th chime.

Liturgist: Let us pray together.

All: *Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the Iraqi and Afghan people who grieve the death of their innocent loved ones and the many who fled and are currently fleeing their war-torn homelands and now, live as refugees in foreign lands. We pray, O God, as we remember the estimated 1.8 million veterans who have a recognized disability since having been wounded physically, emotionally, socially, and psychologically, due to combat action in Iraq and Afghanistan, alone.*

Toll the 13th chime.

Pastor: We are conflicted internally. We pledge allegiance to our nation, while at other times we surrender our all to you, O Lord. Deliver us from fragmentary living, from divided aims and rival loyalties, and from failure to seek and achieve wholeness in thought, word, and deed.
(Time of silent prayer and confession)

Toll the 14th chime.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: *Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember how your “kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven” dies a little each time we say one thing and behave differently; when we proclaim to be Christ’s disciple and then fail to follow his commands in our daily living. We remember the many whose faith has ever been injured or died due to a relationship with a church.*

Toll the 15th chime.

Liturgist: Deliver us from counterfeit humility, from the modesty that draws attention to itself, from the arrogance which creates the world in our own image and will not bow to authority of Truth as it is revealed to us. Deliver us from religious selfishness, from the piety that is centered upon safety rather than service, from seeking peace of mind instead of reconciliation with you and all people, near and far. *(Time of silent prayer and reflection)*

Toll the 16th chime.

Liturgist: Let us pray together.

All: *Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the death of relationships between humanity due to different theologies and debates about matters of religion or politics. We lift our prayers for better understanding among all people.*

Toll the 17th chime.

Pastor: While we cannot imagine what would cause persons to commit such violent acts of terrorism, we know you call us to forgive. Move in our hearts and lead us to that place of radical generosity and love. *(Time for silent prayer and reflections)*

Toll the 18th chime.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: *Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the violence we’ve experienced or inflicted upon another. Teach us to remember the words of Jesus and lead us towards a healthy forgiveness that has no place for the terrors of physical or verbal violence. Help us to work towards stopping terrorism in our homes, workplaces, schools, communities, churches, and among nations. We remember, O God, all victims of violence.*

Toll the 19th chime.

Liturgist: Most of all dear God, move us from despair to hope, from isolation to community, from war

to peace, from death to life, grounded in our relationship with you and your people in every tribe and nation, every family and tongue so that together we might build your beloved community on earth as it is in heaven. (*Time for silent prayer and reflection*)

Toll the 20th chime.

Liturgist: Let us pray together.
All: *Hear our prayer, O God, as we remember the words of Jesus, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” We remember all the saints – your faithful people - both the dead and the living, who live and move and have their being in you.*

Pastor: We remembered.
God remembered.
God remembers still.

Moment of Silence to Remember.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*⁴

Dr. Troy Winemiller

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Since God in Christ remembers all people, let us remember with thanksgiving all that God has done for us and make an offering of our life and labor unto the Lord, dedicating all with give, with a unison prayer, as printed.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: *God of Life, you have forgiven us and set us free. We respond with our whole lives to follow your lead in forgiving others. In these gifts we offer our time, talent, and treasure. Through us, may your beloved community extend beyond all boundaries until all your children, everywhere know they are forgiven and free. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: Christ is perhaps, more readily known, in brokenness than wholeness. In the breaking open of the intact tomb we realize, “Christ is risen!” With wounds still visible the risen Lord appears. In the breaking of the bread, in the fruit of the vine – crushed – and poured out and emptied, Christ is revealed as present and able.

This is Christ’s table, spread for broken people – not perfect people – but for those whose lives are fragmented, crushed, and utterly reliant upon God’s grace in Jesus Christ. Come to this table, then, not because you are able, but because our Lord is able to raise us up and hold us fast even when all falls apart around us. Let us pray.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

⁴ CCLI Copyright 1955, 1983 by Jan-Lee Music, ASCAP International copyright secured. All rights reserved.

Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord Most High.

Congregation: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise even in the midst of tragedy and the remembrance of horror. For you are the God of creation who brings forth order out of chaos, brooding over the face of the dark deep, murmuring words of future hope. When life lies around us broken, a mess, you clean up, patch up, and make a way out of no way when we're enslaved to past oppressions. You never give up on us though we forget you and turn from your Way. You send us prophets to encourage us with words of compassion and hope. Therefore, we praise you, even here, even now, joining the chorus of praise that shapes creation, singing:

All sing:

Seraphic Hymn

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Pastor: Into dark days of terror, you blaze forth in Jesus Christ who shows us the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He touched hurt with healing, welcomed children, opened the eyes of the blind, unstopped deaf ears, and set the lame to leaping. Standing up to power, he was struck down so that we could be raised with him to new life and enter your good future, now. Therefore, we proclaim what we believe:

All: ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is present. Christ will come again.***

Pastor: We praise you, God of grace and mercy, for settling soft wings of comfort around us in our pain; for your Spirit that fills us with strength when our knees buckle in grief and our arms tremble with bone-tired weariness. Thank you that you keep our tears and gather us with all the saints in the eternal light of holy communion. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, and our gifts of bread and wine formed from your gifts of grain and vine, that as we partake in this gift exchange, your presence may be revealed to us, feeding, healing, nurturing, and celebrating. May our hands receive from your hands the goodness you intend for all people, that we may extend your blessing of forgiveness and peace throughout the world to your glory and honor.

All: ***Amen.***

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: In the midst of his disciple betraying him, knowing his followers would all abandon him, Jesus sat at a table with those he nonetheless called friends. He took bread and broke it and said,

Congregation: **“This is my body which is broken for you. Whenever you eat of it, do so in remembrance of me.”**

Pastor: As the hour of darkness drew near, Jesus took the cup and said,

Congregation: **“This cup is the new covenant poured out in my blood for the forgiveness of sins. When you drink it, do so remembering me.”**

Pastor: When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of the Servant Christ?

Whenever we drink this cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of the Suffering Christ?

Come, let us remember all God does in the midst of tragedy and brokenness and give God our humble thanks and praise.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER

All: ***You have spared nothing, Holy God, going with us into the depths of human experience***

to raise us up into your hope for the healing of the world. Thank you that you count us worthy to share in the suffering of Christ for the redemption of all. Now may we raise Him up in our daily living to feed the hungry, bind up the broken hearted, comfort and care for all in need, and strive to be your forgiving and peaceful presence in the world. To the glory of your holy name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*⁵

With majesty

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears all its sons a - way;
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 They fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the open - ing day.
 Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home. A-MEN.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor:

May the God of all consolation bless you in every way and grant you peace all the days of your life.

All:

Amen.

Pastor:

May God free you from all anxiety and strengthen your hearts in love.

All:

Amen.

Pastor:

May God enrich you with the gifts of faith, hope, and love so that what you do in this life, will bring you to the happiness of everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Pastor:

May Almighty God bless you: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Pastor:

Go in the peace of Christ.

All:

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come*⁶ (Marks)

⁵ Public Domain. CCLI Song # 43152, Isaac Watts | William Croft

⁶ Robert J. Powell * 405-331 * Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub-side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion, Land me safe on

power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.

Music used by permission of Mrs. John Hughes.

SERAPHIC HYMN

ALONZO P. HOWARD, 1838-1902



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba-oth; Heav-en and earth are



full, are full of the ma-jes-ty of Thy Glo - ry, Ho-san-na, ho -



san - na, ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is He that com-eth in the



crescendo name of the Lord, Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est!

