

CLOSING WORDS: RIPPLING FORTH

Pastor: Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that the result of our worshipful work will create actions of humility that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us *Do Unto Others* with ever-deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope, that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn/song as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, inviting humility in our daily lives.

HYMN

He's got the Whole World in His Hands

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Holy One show us the way to *Do Unto Others* with **HUMILITY**. May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love. May the Spirit show forth through you in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve. And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding especially when it is difficult to understand. And the people said:

All people:

AMEN and AMEN!

All SING:

We will tear down the walls.

We will tear down every wall.

God has called us one and all;

Christ has broken down the wall,

Christ has broken down the wall.

**WE WILL NOW SHARE A MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP,
WITH THE HOPE OF SEEING EACH OTHER AS GOD SEES US:
GOD'S BELOVED CHILDREN**

POSTLUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

Resources

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License: #A-733911. All music printed or posted on PowerPoint with permission: CCLI #1528365
- This Worship Series is a collaboration between Worship Design Studio and Church of the Resurrection with their Campaign for Kindness. All material purchased by Pastor Laura Baker and is being used with permission.

September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Listen More, Speak Less: Humility

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Mr. Kevin Crone

Rev. Laura Baker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Today, we continue our worship series that points us toward connection in a world of divisions. The root of the word “human” is the same as the word “humility.” It all means literally “on the ground.” From dust we came, and to dust we shall return. When we hear each other’s fears, anxieties, and pain, we can return to the ground of hope... that we are all experiencing the pains of being human. This week, we remember to look first at our neighbor as a person, not a position. Beginning conversations this way may help us to stay human and “on the ground” with one another rather than needing to come out “on top.” Let us sing now, in one voice, as the Christ candle is lit.

All SING:

*Christ has broken down the wall. Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall.*

Pastor:

The act of simply coming together in “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather with the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our humility revolution. Let us pray, then sing in a unified voice.

All people:

Creator God, we ask you to come close and remind us of our belovedness as your children, for we are feeling distant. Open our eyes to the beauty and pain we all contain, and invite us to “do unto others” in ways that build up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.

All SING:

*We're accepted as we are. We're accepted as we are.
Through God's powers, all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are.
Cast aside our doubts and fears. Cast aside our doubts and fears.
Peace and love freely offered here. Cast aside our doubts and fears.*

PEACE ACROSS THE DIVIDE

Member 1: We are on opposite sides, it seems.
Member 2: It is hard to even talk about it.
Member 1: What if we don't see eye to eye?
Member 2: What if you never see things as I do?
Member 1: I cannot imagine what will happen to all of us.
Member 2: I'm not sure I can handle this tension, this pain.

Pastor: Wait!

Congregation: **BREATHE.**

Pastor: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

Congregation: **Breathe again.**

Pastor: We are NOT alone.

Congregation: **Christ is with us and in us.**

Pastor: Let us take a deep breath together.

All people: *(Deeply breath in and slowly exhale.)*

Pastor: The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same. Our desire for life and love is the same. Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same. Let this moment permeate our souls and let us pass the peace of Christ between us. This peace is meant for all people. The peace of Christ be with you.

All people: *And also with you.*

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

HYMN *Lord, I Want to be a Christian* **Chalice, #589**

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

FOCUS SCRIPTURE READING **Ephesians 4:1-6**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Change My Heart O God* (Espinosa)

SERMON *Listen More; Speak Less: Humility*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Jesus' ministry turned the idea of social stratification in his day on its head. Our response to the invitation of Christ to be his Body in the world is to make Jesus' alternative perspective more real in our own lives - for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as the "populace"—a word whose French origins in the 16th century meant "the multitude of persons not distinguished by rank, education, office, or profession"—and perhaps we could add "political party" to that list? We are people first, "the

populace," not positions. And so, we pray together the prayers of the people, for we are all human, *humus* of the earth, before we are anything else. We pray for a sense of connection,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for a setting aside of ego,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the spiritual capacity for humility,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the relief from fear,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: Holy, Loving, Egalitarian God...

All people: We pray all these things through Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. 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: God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God — we share our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join in Christ's Kin-dom building work here on earth. Let us dedicate all we offer with a song and prayer.

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

DOXOLOGY **Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Help us to work together well, offering our humble service now.

Follow Jesus. Praise the Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *Bountiful God, all that we can offer you stems from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.*