

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

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**PRELUDE**

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly<sup>1</sup>  
I Can Only Imagine<sup>2</sup>  
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing<sup>3</sup>*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****GREETING****OPENING PRAYER and ACT OF CONFESSION** (Based on Psalm 139)

**Pastor:** You see deep into our hearts, O LORD, and you know everything about us. You know when we are working or resting, when we come and when we go. No matter where we are, we are never out of your sight. Even before we speak a word, you already know what we are going to say. Your reassuring presence surrounds us at all times.

**All people:** *Such knowledge is far above us— we can't begin to comprehend it! It was you who created us, who formed us inside our mothers' womb. We praise you for the gift of life, and for the miracle of our bodies. Everything you do is marvelous, and worthy of our praise!*

**Liturgist:** Nothing about us is hidden from you! Even before we were born, you knew us and watched over us— and you continue to walk with us, throughout all the stages of our lives. Your thoughts are far beyond our understanding, more than we could ever imagine. They outnumber the grains of sand on the beach.

**All people:** *Look deep into our hearts, O God. Search out our hidden thoughts and motives. Keep us from actions that will bring harm to ourselves or to others. Guide us in the ways that lead to life.*

**(SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION OFFERED)****ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** Beloved People of God, hear this good news as recorded in Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 8: "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. It is not by your works, so that anyone can boast."

**All people:** *Praise be to Jesus Christ, for the gift of his amazing grace. 'Tis so sweet to be able to trust in the promises of the Lord!*

**HYMN***'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus<sup>4</sup>*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus - just to take him at his Word;  
Just to rest upon his promise - just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."  
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! O, for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, Precious Jesus - Savior, Friend;  
and I know that he is with me, will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! O, for grace to trust him more!

<sup>1</sup> CCLI SONG # 7178973. Public Domain. Artist: Phil Perkins. 1985 Troubadour For The Lord Music (admin. in the U.S. by Music Services and elsewhere in the world by Capitol CMG Publishing). Music: Spotify

<sup>2</sup> CCLI Song # 2978857. Author: Bart Millard © 2001, 2002 Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Artist: *Mercy Me*. Album: 10. Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU0MwNpRq6M>

<sup>3</sup> CCLI Song #108389. Words and Music: Public Domain. Author: John Wyeth, Robert Robinson. Music: David Huntsinger from the CD Album: Amazing Grace: Celtic Hymns and Blessings. Discovery House. 2011.

<sup>4</sup> CCLI Song # 22609 Author: Louisa M. R. Stead | William James Kirkpatrick; Words and Music: Public Domain. Artist: Casting Crowns Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DdgkvnHjM>.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
 Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! O, for grace to trust him more!  
 O, for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, Precious Jesus - Savior, Friend;  
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Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
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 O, for grace to trust him more!

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

## SERMON & PRAYER

*God Rest Their Soul*

Rev. Laura C. Bair

## PASTORAL PRAYER, OFFERTORY PRAYER, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord our God, as we sit in quietness our thoughts are far from quiet. We are wrestling with doubts and fears. We are looking for answers. We are hoping against hope...

(Prayers of Intercession continue...)

Pastor: We look to you O God to be present in our communities and in our world. Continue to show us how we at Starview United Church of Christ can be part of your work in the world. Teach us how we can grow in faith and become more and more like Jesus. We pray now, in one voice asking for your continued blessing on us and the gifts we offer, saying:

*All people: We also ask, O Lord that you would bless the work of our hands. Bless all that we offer today – not only what we give of our money, but the offerings of our time and our talents. And now we gather all our prayers together, the spoken and the unspoken and pray as Jesus taught us: 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.*

## HYMN

*What a Covenant*<sup>5</sup>

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## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in peace to love and care,  
 for all God's children in the name of Christ;  
 and may the Spirit of God, which filled John the Baptist and Jesus,  
 fill your hearts, souls, and minds too.  
 May the power of God which upheld them,  
 strengthen you for each day,  
 and may the love of God,  
 which directed their every action,  
 guide you, both now and forevermore. Amen.

*All People: Amen.*

## POSTLUDE

*Baby Boy*<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> CCLI Song # 31779. Words and Music: Public Domain. Author: Anthony Showalter. Music: Elisha Hoffman.

<sup>6</sup> CCLI Song # 6362249, Artists: Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Seth Mosley © 2012 CentricSongs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnnWdWz0TA0>

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## What a Covenant

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

## Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

