

OCT 18 WORSHIP
20th Sunday After Pentecost

INVOCATION

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by David Eck)

L: As we gather this morning we remember that we are citizens of two kingdoms: God's commonwealth and the empires of this world.

C: There are times when these two kingdoms are in harmony with one another. There are times when these two kingdoms clash.

L: There are times when Christ's command to love and serve all our neighbors finds a warm reception in our world.

C: There are times when the values Christ taught us are in conflict with what earthly rulers are telling us to do.

L: Help us, God, to discern our place in both of these kingdoms.

C: Give us the wisdom to navigate our dual citizenship, and the courage to speak out against injustice, hatred and prejudice.

COME TO ME

Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest
For my yoke is always easy, and my burden, it is light

Come to me, all who are hungry, and I will satisfy
Living bread, manna from heaven, falling down in endless supply

Come to me, all who are thirsty, and I will quench your soul
Living streams will flow within you, giving life, making you whole

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PRAYER OF THE DAY (written by David Eck)

L: The Lord is with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...Sovereign God,

C: Ruler of our hearts, help us to follow you faithfully and cheerfully. Give us a compassionate spirit and a discerning mind that we may know your will for our lives and for our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

FIRST LESSON— Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show

me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.” [NRSV]

PSALM 63:1-8

Refrain: We will sing a song of praise to you, "God, you are our God! God, you are our God!"

L: God, you are our God, We seek you with every fiber of our being.

C: We thirst for you like travelers in a hot, dry desert with no oasis in sight.

L: We have felt your presence in this sacred space, and have experienced your strength and blessing.

C: We sing your praises because your lovingkindness makes us feel fully alive. R.

L: We will worship you every day we have life and breath.

C: We offer our prayers in your name.

L: You are our gourmet meal at the end of the day!

C: Our spirits continue to praise you even when we're sleeping! R.

L: You're always there to lend a helping hand.

C: It brings us joy to know you keep a watchful eye on us.

L: We hold onto you like a child clinging to their parent.

C: We know you will always be with us and never let us go. R.

Psalm paraphrase from The Psalms: Remixed by David Eck, © 2020. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON—1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to all of you.

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to mention it. People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath. *[CEB]*

GOSPEL— Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. *[NRSV]*

SERMON

HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE

Holy Spirit, truth divine, draw upon this soul of mine;
Breath of God and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire, purge me with your holy fire.

Holy Spirit, peace divine, still this restless heart of mine;
Speak to calm this tossing sea, stayed in your tranquility.

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, fortify this will of mine;

Give me strength to face the storm, shelter others from all harm.

Words: Vs. 1-3 Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892, Vs. 4 adapted by David Eck

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

(written by David Eck)

L: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. God of Wisdom, we live in a time of uncertainty with lots of conflicting information surrounding us. Give us the wisdom we need to navigate our lives and remain faithful to the values Jesus taught us. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our nation that is filled with animosity and distrust of those who are different from us. Empower us to be bridge builders and peacemakers instead of adding fuel to the fire. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom are meeting in person today while others are worshipping online. Although we may be divided by distance in this time of pandemic, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Mark, Linnie's mom Ruth, as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray together

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

PEACE OF CHRIST

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not let them be afraid.

The peace of Christ goes with you. The peace of Christ goes with you.

The peace of Christ goes with you. The peace of Christ goes with you.

2. The love of God... 3. The Spirit's joy...

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BENEDICTION (written by David Eck)

L: We are called to be ambassadors of the good news of Jesus. Let us go out into the world and share the love of Christ with everyone we meet.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Serve in the name of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COOKIE BAGS are needed for Western Carolina Rescue Mission's Coat Drive this year. We will not be able to participate in person. However, we are asking folks to bake cookies and place them in snack size Ziplock bags. Pastor Dave will then drop them off the day before the event which will be Saturday, Nov 7th. You can bring them any Sunday and place them in the church freezer. Thanks for your help!

PLEDGE CARDS and **TIME AND TALENT SHEETS** should be turned into the church by next Sunday, Oct 18th. This will be a big help to Church Council as we put together the 2021 budget next week. Thank you for your support of our church!

LOVE FEAST, Pastor Dave's new worship recording is now available. You can download the mp3s on the church's web site or request a physical CD from Pastor Dave.

CHURCH CLEANERS and **YARD WORKERS** are also needed to help Pastor Dave and Gary keep our property looking fantastic. We have plenty of projects that need to be done and as the weather cools it's the perfect time to do them. Please see Pastor Dave for more details.