

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
June 28, 2020  
Online Worship

Welcome

Opening Song                      “Father Welcomes”

**Chorus: Father welcomes all His children  
To His family through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation,  
Life forever has been won.  
(Repeat)**

**Little children, come to me,  
For my kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give,  
Mercy for your sin.  
(Chorus)**

**In the water, in the Word,  
In His promise, be assured:  
Those who are baptized and believe,  
Shall be born again.  
(Chorus)**

**Let us daily die to sin;  
Let us daily rise with Him  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
Live in the peace of God.  
(Chorus)**

**Words and Music by Robin Mann, @ Kevin Mayhew, Ltd., CCLI#155875**

## Opening Litany

by Barbara Glasson, president of Methodist Conference, Britain

Pastor: We are not people of fear:

**All: We are people of courage.**

Pastor: We are not people who protect our own safety:

**All: we are people who protect our neighbor's safety.**

Pastor: We are not people of greed:

**All: We are people of generosity.**

Pastor: We are your people God, giving and loving,

**All: wherever we are, whatever it costs**

Pastor: For as long as it takes

**All: wherever you call us.**

## Song

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

**ELW #656**

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The unity of heart and mind  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: Like a loving parent, God invites us to come and confess our wrongdoing.

We come, aware of our guilt, yet without fear before our just God.

Let us take time for reflection.

Great and merciful God,

**All: we confess that even as we cry to you for help, sometimes we are the persecutor and not the persecuted; we are the thief and not the victim; we are the cunning friend and not the betrayed. Forgive us for failing to look honestly at ourselves and examine where we have caused you grief.**

**And we confess our abuse of the natural world you have created for us. We have selfishly consumed resources and closed our eyes to the damage we are going to the earth, land, water and air. We take more than our share of the bounty of this world.**

**Forgive us from turning away from you. In your great mercy forgive us Lord. Only you can make us whole again.**

**Amen.**

Pastor: Through God's great love and mercy your sins are forgiven. Go in peace and sin no more. You are Christ's new creation.

**All: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## **Sharing of Peace**

Pastor: May the peace of God be with you all.

**All: and also with you.**

Pastor: take a moment to share God's peace with each other in your home. You can also share the peace with others by using the chat button on the Zoom tool bar.

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live.  
A place where saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.  
Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
To dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
And as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
(refrain)

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
Where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Chris the feast that frees us:  
(refrain)

## **Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: O God,

**All: you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **The Word**

### **Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Jeremiah responded to Hananiah as they stood in front of all the priests and people at the Temple. He said, “Amen! May your prophecies come true! I hope the Lord does everything you say. I hope he does bring back from Babylon the treasures of this Temple and all the captives. But listen now to the solemn words I speak to you in the presence of all these people. The ancient prophets who preceded you and me spoke against many nations, always warning of war, disaster, and disease. So a prophet who predicts peace must show he is right. Only when his predictions come true can we know that he is really from the Lord.”

### **Romans 6:12-23**

You must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom.

Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!

I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end.

But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master.

The Message (MSG)

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### **Matthew 10:34-42**

“Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

'I have come to set a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.  
Your enemies will be right in your own household!'

“If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

“Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me. If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

The Word of our Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon** “If I Give You a Cup of Cold Water Will You Put on Your Mask?”

Yesterday I sat at my desk surrounded by half sheets of paper, sticky notes, and even literally a napkin with a quote on it. And they were like puzzle pieces spread before me waiting for me to put them all together.

All of you are pieces of the puzzle that eventually turn into a sermon. So I prayed for the words God wanted me to give to you. That prayer led to praying for each one of you. When I finished, I struggled to figure out how one sermon could be the word God knew you each needed. But how can one sermon speak to a recent college grad and a Mom and Dad happy to have their young children silently occupied during worship. What does a person recovering from surgery, someone else contemplating retirement since they are already out of work, an older member worried about catching Covid-19 themselves and worried about their family as well----what do they need to hear this morning.

Our country has many serious problems right now----why we even have a sandstorm coming our way from Africa! Some of us are concerned about our lack of a job or the death of our business because of the coronavirus. We are concerned with the progress of racial justice in our country; and others find the politics of an election year nearly putting them over the edge.

But Oh my, we are fortunate! We know a God who can handle all of this, who gives each of us what we need at any given moment, A God, whose Word written in Scripture, comes to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, and can be heard by everyone in such a way that all of us are fed.

The readings appointed for today give us lots to think about. Paul is writing about freedom---the freedom of a Christian, given in baptism and renewed throughout life. We need that renewal because sin continues to try to draw us away from God. Paul tell us to “use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.” God provides us with the freedom to refute the power of sin. Paul continues, “ Now do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

How do we do these things that put us in a right relationship with both God and our neighbors? In today’s reading in Matthew, Jesus is giving final marching orders to his disciples before sending them out into the world.

The disciples had heard Jesus start their instructions with these words “The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask him to send out more workers for his field.” As Jesus called his disciples to sit around him he gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and heal every kind of disease and illness. Can you picture the disciples nodding in agreement---yes, they are up for the job!

But the mood changes when Jesus describes what following him truly means. After telling them that “everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me,” he expands on the consequences. Listen again to our reading from Matthew as translated by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*,

“Don’t think I’ve come to make life cozy. I’ve come to cut---make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law---cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don’t deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don’t deserve me. “

Explaining to them what that means, Jesus says, “If you don’t go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don’t deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you’ll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you’ll find both yourself and me.”

These words are generally not found on anyone’s list of favorite Bible verses. But once we get our sentimentality out of the way we can notice that Jesus does not say, don’t love your family. Rather, he says if have to choose to live the way your family wants you to, and that way precludes you from following Jesus, you will lose out on the greatest gift in the world.

How to serve God? To the disciples and to us it generally means we are the givers. We start with giving something as small as a cup of cold water to a thirsty person. But there is more. Our relationship with others is not just about giving. Listen again to what Jesus tells them:

“Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me, the One who sent you. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father, who set me. “Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God’s messenger.

“Accepting someone’s help is as good as giving someone help.” Repeat.

For many of us accepting someone’s help might be more difficult than giving help. We like to be independent and our identity can get wrapped up in being the one strong enough, gifted and generous enough to be the Giver. But Jesus tells us that accepting someone’s help is also a blessing, both to us and to the other. It gives the other a chance to serve God by giving.

“Again, listen to Jesus give instructions to his disciples, and to us: “This is large work I’ve called you into, but don’t be overwhelmed. Its best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won’t lose out on a thing.”

I don’t often give a title to my sermons. But today I have:

“If I give you a cup of water, will you put on your mask?”

### **The Affirmation of Faith –Creed from Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Church in Corinth, chapter 15:1-20**

**We believe in the Good News that saves us:**

**That Jesus the Christ is the Messiah,**

**That he died for our sins,**

**That he was buried**

**And that he was raised from death on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.**

**We believe that following his resurrection Christ**

**Appeared to Peter, to his closest friends, to a crowd**

**Of more than 500 people, and later also to Paul.**

We believe that since Christ rose from the dead  
There is resurrection of the dead.  
If there is no resurrection, there is no living Christ.  
If Christ is not alive, everything we've staked our lives on  
Is a lie.

But the truth is Christ was raised!  
Jesus is alive today!  
Therefore, we will be raised as well! Amen.

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

ELW #779

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found;  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

### **Prayers of the People**

Pastor: We are led by the Holy Spirit to pray for the church, all of creation and for those who need special blessings.

*(after each petition)*

*Pastor: Lord in your mercy,*

***All: Hear our prayer.***

Pastor: Great and mighty God, . . . . .

### **We Remember in Prayer :**

**Those in need of physical, mental or emotional healing:** Mary Lou, Jennifer, Mason, Janet, Evelyn, Carson, Bertha, Kevin, June, Susan, Anne, Tim, Barry, Bonnie, Barbara, Rose, Bill, Emma, Carl, Laura, Marian, Ronnie, Amanda, Pat, Tim, Clara

**Those who mourn:** Vernon, Betty Ann, Erika, Beth & Gregg, Tony & Narrie; and the family and friends of Jeanne, Bill, Anne & Bob, and Tony

For these prayers, and for all the things you know are needed, we trust to your mercy and grace. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.

### Closing Song

### “Free At Last”

(Refrain)

Free at last, free at last,  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.  
Free at last, free at last,  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.

Surely been 'buked and surely been scorned,  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.  
But still my soul is a-heaven born,  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.

(Refrain)

If you don't know that I been redeemed,  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream  
Thank God a'mighty I'm free at last.

(Refrain)

### Benediction

Jim: Go in peace and serve the Lord!  
All: Thanks be to God.