

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Thy Word”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

Greeting

I Peter 5:14b (MSG)

Invocation

Announcements

Background of the Opening Prayer Hymn

Prayer Hymn “God Bless America”

Irving Berlin, 1938

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,

Let us swear our allegiance to a land that's free;

Let us all be grateful for a land so fair

As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America,

Land that I love,

Stand beside her and guide her

Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America
My home sweet home.

* * * * *

(The second time through, Cindy will begin with a slight revision of the first line of the prayer hymn's introduction to reflect the storm clouds that have been gathering for some time all across our land.)

While the storm clouds gather, sea to shining sea,
Let us swear our allegiance to a land that's free;
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

***God bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America my home sweet home. (repeat the last 3 lines)**

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The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession** (*responsive*) *from Ps.33:12; I John 1:8,9*

Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord;

People: The people whom God has chosen as his heritage.

Leader: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon** (*responsive*)

I Timothy 1:15; I Peter 2:24

Leader: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

People: He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

Leader: Believe the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

The Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children’s Sermon

Cindy Newman

Scripture

“United by Christ”

Ephesians 2:11-22 (CEV)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Tear Down This Wall”

Rev. Gordon Johnson

“Christ has made peace between Jews and Gentiles, and he has united us by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us.” (Ephesians 2:14)

The Response to the Word

***Hymn of Affirmation**

“He Came Down”

#137

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967 (9:44), PC(USA)

God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In *God's* reconciling love, *God* overcomes the barriers between brothers and sisters and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring *all men and women* to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination, and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize *anyone*, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess.

***Invitation to Offering**

from II Corinthians 5:18-19

***Response**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (vs. 4)

#610

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Hymn of Invitation (*seated*) “Come to the Table of Grace”

#507

Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Breaking of the Bread

I Corinthians 11:23-26

Communion of the People

*Prayer after Communion (*responsive*)

Psalm 103:1,2

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

People: and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

People: and forget not all his benefits.

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn

“O for a World”

#372

*Charge and Blessing

Selected Scriptures & I Thessalonians 5:23

*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff has the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff has the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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*Postlude “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” arr. Anna Laura Page

This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

Pastors: Rev. Gordon Johnson

Liturgist: Ruthanne Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Soloist: Cindy Newman

Our liturgist, Ruthanne Johnson, has been a member of our church for 56 years and is an ordained deacon and elder. She is a retired RN and along with her husband, Gordon, raised three children here, all of whom became elders, with one becoming an ordained Presbyterian pastor. Her seven grandchildren also grew up in our congregation, and the two youngest (ages 5 and 3) continue to bless us with their presence.

Ruthanne has been involved in different aspects of the church throughout the years including children's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Presbyterian Women, and the biggest job of all, being a Presbyterian pastor's wife for 65 years! She has been a choir member from the start and plans to continue until the day comes that Tom finally works up the nerve to suggest she take a well-deserved break! She has a passion for reading, gardening, traveling, and family get-togethers. If there's a church event, you will most likely see Ruthanne there.

II Corinthians 5:18-19

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.