

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 15, 2023

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Robert C. Lawson (1925)

O God, who has made man in thine own likeness, and who doth love all whom Thou has made, suffer us not because of difference of race, color, or condition to separate ourselves from others and thereby from Thee; but teach us the unity of Thy family and universality of Thy Love. As Thou Savior, as a Son, was born of an Hebrew mother, who had the blood of many nations in her veins; and ministered first to Thy brethren of the Israelites, but rejoiced in the faith of a Syro-Phoenician woman and of a Roman soldier, and suffered your cross to be carried by an Ethiopian; teach us, also, while loving and serving our own, to enter into the communion of the whole family; and forbid that from pride of birth, color, achievement and hardness of heart, we should despise any for whom Christ dies, or injure or grieve any in whom He lives. We pray in Jesus' precious name. AMEN.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Lamb of God"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"The Lord Is In His Holy Temple"

John Lloyd, 1995

The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God created all the races and nations of the world and willed that we live together in peace and harmony.

People: We were made to be family.

Leader: There is strife in the human family; injustice abounds in racism, classism, sexism, cultural imperialism, and other isms. We are a divided people.

People: We have been called to let justice roll down like waters.

Leader: We must work passionately to bridge the gulf between us, overcome the injustices that oppress us, and restore community among us.

People: We must be determined enough to change what we can. We must have the courage to accept what we cannot change. Above all, we must be wise enough to know the difference.

***Hymn**

“Come! Live in the Light!”

#749

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

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

Most Holy and merciful God: we have condemned racial injustice in our pronouncement, yet we cling to the privileges derived from social inequities. All too often we are blind to our complicity in maintaining systems of oppression and deferring the hopes and dreams of the oppressed for freedom. Give us the courage to name our sin. Give us the strength to claim responsibility for our actions. Give us the grace to pay the price for changing our behavior. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Choir Anthem

“Lamb of God”

Arlen Clarke, 2000

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 10:5-13

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Equality and Unity for All”

Rev. Désirée Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Confession of Belhar (10.5-6)

We believe

- **that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;**
- **that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;**
- **that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;**
- **that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;**

- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ. To the one and only God, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

***Hymn** “Lift Every Voice and Sing” #339

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (v. 6) #108

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “We Shall Overcome” #379

***Charge and Blessing**

*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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*Postlude

"The Lord Is My Light"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Steve Watters

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs