



24th Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Topeka, KS

GATHERING

We gather as the Body of Christ to Encounter God in worship.

Prelude

Open the Eyes of My Heart
P. Baloché / Jaron Marcus

Welcome and Announcements

Susan Burris

Responsive Call to Worship

L: We gather here to remember God's glorious deeds - recorded for all time by people whose lives were touched by divine grace. As people of hope, they affirmed the great works of God, and the importance of keeping the commandments of God.

P: **We are heirs of their faithfulness in witnessing to the greatness of God's wondrous acts.**

L: Let our witness be as convincing so that generations to come will continue to honor God's holy name.

Invocation

Unison

We worship you, O God, as the one in whom we have placed our hope. We share the desire of your people of old to tell of the blessings you have affected in our lives. When we think about the greatest blessing of all - the gift of yourself in human flesh - Jesus Christ - we joyfully acknowledge that our hope in you is not misplaced. We choose to serve you because you chose to touch our lives so graciously in Christ. May our faithful witness and the service of our lives reveal the depth of our love and gratitude as we worship you, O God, we praise and adore you in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Musical Interlude

The Lord Fulfill All Thy Petitions
L.H. Groom / Brad Stipcak, Organ

Call to Confession

Responsive Prayer of Confession

Congregation

L: God of Israel and God of Jesus Christ, we would not be here if you had not chosen to touch our lives with your love. We cannot hide our wonder that you should choose to enter our world and our lives in person - in Jesus. Yet we confess that we sometimes have trouble in our decision-making when faced with questions of whether we wholeheartedly serve you or not. We are often tempted to put other than you first in our lives - when we are faced, often daily, with choices which affect how we live as your faithful people - choices about how we share the gifts you have given us.

P: Forgive us when the choices we make reflect not your glory but our own self-interest.

L: Forgive us when the choices we make revolve around judging or condemning others without first listening to their stories.

P: Forgive us when the choices we make contribute to our own prosperity and well-being while ignoring the needs of others.

L: Forgive us when the choices we make diminish our awareness of you, O God, in the midst of those who suffer.

P: Gracious and loving God, strengthen us where we are weak with the renewing power of your Spirit so that the choices we make clearly reveal our identity as your faithful people, and as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord - in whose name we pray.
(time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Ross Freeman

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

The Word of God in scripture and interpreted in proclamation is the center of worship.

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson

Judges 4: 1-9

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."' Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Special Music

I'm Listening
C. McClaney / Christa Sloop, Solo
Jaron Marcus, Piano

Second Lesson

Acts 16: 16-26

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent

that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Perception is Reality"
Ross Freeman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

We respond to the Word of God in prayer and by offering ourselves and our Substance.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
J. Biery / Brad Stipcak, Organ

***Prayer of Dedication and 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.

SENDING FORTH

Worship Equips Us To Go Forth To Serve God In The World.

Special Music

The Blessing
K. Jobe /Christa Sloop, Solo
Jaron Marcus, Piano

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Lord I Lift Your Name on High
R. Founds / Jaron Marcus, Piano

~Please rise in body or in spirit.

Participating in Worship Leadership:

Ross Freeman, Presider
Susan Burris, Liturgist
Brad Stipcak, Dir. of Music, Organ
Jaron Marcus, Piano
Christa Sloop, Special Music
Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual

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