



Seventh Sunday  
after Pentecost  
July 11, 2021  
Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
Topeka, KS

Pre-Service Music

“Blessed Assurance”  
Phoebe Knapp  
Jaron Marcus, Piano

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“It Is Well With My Soul”  
Charles Callahan  
Brad Stipcak, Organ

CENTERING WORDS

*May our lives be an honor and glory to God, who is our hope and our salvation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Janis Holiwell

Responsive Call to Worship

The earth is God’s and everything in it.

**We belong to our God.**

Lift up your voices in praise and thanksgiving.

**We lift our voices in glory and honor to God.**

Prayer of the Day

Unison

**God of grace and glory, renew us with your presence this day. As we gather to bless your name and sing your praise, bless us with your glorious love and your guiding light. Strengthen us each and every hour, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the wisdom of your holy word. In hope and joy, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn No. 327

“From All that Dwell Below the Skies”

## Call to Confession

[All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Please join me in our prayer of confession, followed by a time of silent confession.]

## Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation

**Gracious God, pour out your mercy on us. Where there is despair, fill us with hope. Where there is sorrow, fill us with comfort. Where there is sin, fill us with forgiveness. Where there is hatred, fill us with love. Where there is worry, fill us with assurance. Gather us in the arms of your grace and glory, that we may reflect your glory with honor and praise all the days of our lives. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## Kyrie (Lord Have Mercy) GTG 576

Congregation

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy on us.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### \*Gloria Patri GTG 581

Congregation

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen, amen.**

## THE WORD

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

## Prayer of Illumination

### First Lesson

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard

unspeakable words that were things no one is allowed to repeat. I don't know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. I'll brag about this man, but I won't brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses.

If I did want to brag, I wouldn't make a fool of myself because I'd tell the truth. I'm holding back from bragging so that no one will give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me. I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I've received so that I wouldn't be conceited. It's a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn't be conceited.

I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness." So I'll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ's power can rest on me. Therefore, I'm all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I'm weak, then I'm strong.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Lesson

Mark 6: 14-29

Herod the king heard about these things, because the name of Jesus had become well-known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and this is why miraculous powers are at work through him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah." Still others were saying, "He is a prophet like one of the ancient prophets." But when Herod heard these rumors, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life."

He said this because Herod himself had arranged to have John arrested and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip. Herod had married her, but John told Herod, "It's against the law for you to marry your brother's wife!" So Herodias had it in for John. She wanted to kill him, but she couldn't. This was because Herod respected John. He regarded him as a righteous and holy person, so he protected him. John's words greatly confused Herod, yet he enjoyed listening to him.

Finally, the time was right. It was on one of Herod's birthdays, when he had prepared a feast for his high-ranking officials and military officers and Galilee's leading residents. Herod's daughter Herodias<sup>[a]</sup> came in and danced, thrilling Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the young woman, "Ask me whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." Then he swore

to her, "Whatever you ask I will give to you, even as much as half of my kingdom."

She left the banquet hall and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"John the Baptist's head," Herodias replied.

Hurrying back to the ruler, she made her request: "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a plate, right this minute." Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. So he ordered a guard to bring John's head. The guard went to the prison, cut off John's head, brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his dead body and laid it in a tomb.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from "A Brief Statement of Faith"*

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Martin Smith

Jaron Marcus, Piano

Doxology GTG 607

Congregation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God whom we adore.  
Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn No. 533

“In the Singing”

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Meditation

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Charles Callahan

Brad Stipcak, Organ

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING FORTH

*Worship equips us to go forth to serve God in the world.*

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Sung Response Hymn No. 542

“God Be With You Till we Meet Again”

\*Postlude

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

Cindy Berry

Jaron Marcus, Piano

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participating in Worship Leadership:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Presider

Janis Holiwell, Liturgist

Brad Stipcak, Director of Music, Organ

Jaron Marcus, Piano

Peter Sandquist, Audio/Visual

Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual

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