



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Topeka, KS

Pre-Service Music

“Hymn of Surrender”
Matt Redman
Jaron Marcus, Piano

GATHERING

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

Prelude

“Shine Jesus Shine”
Graham Kendrick
Jaron Marcus, Piano

CENTERING WORDS

What are the characteristics of a Vital Congregation? How does Jesus call us to vitality?

Welcome and Announcements

Carol Shannahan

Introit

“Gather Us In”
Marty Haugen
Heritage Choir

Responsive Call to Worship

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.

Blessed are you, O holy, triune God,

and blessed is your holy realm forever.

Unison Prayer of the Day

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit, come and transform your church to be a living sign of your love for the world — where the poor are filled with good things, the dividing walls are broken down, and the dead are raised to new life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn No. 301 (vs. 1, 4, 5)

“Let Us Build a House”
Jaron Marcus, Piano

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Congregation

We stock the food pantries, but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give our hand-me-downs away, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped away. We glad-hand those just like us, but purposely avoid our neighbors who 'talk funny.'

Forgive us, Hope of the ages. You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of forgiveness, watched over by your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

“Kyrie” (Lord Have Mercy) GTG 576

Congregation

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

*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.*

Sermon on the Steps

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

All children and youth are invited to come forward and join the worship leader on the chancel steps.

Teacher Commissioning

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“This Little Light of Mine”
arr. Neil Johnson
Heritage Choir

Second Lesson

Matthew 25: 31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

Video

“Introduction to Matthew 25”

Sermon

“Vital Signs”

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"

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

Lauren Daigle

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

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.

* Sending Hymn No. 295 (vv.1,2,4)

"Go To the World"
Brad Stipcak, Organ

*Responsive Charge and Blessing

Now, from where God has gathered us, let us go.

**To discover that the stranger and homeless,
the prisoner and the hospice patient and everyone else
are our sisters and brothers.**

Now, from where we have been fed, let us go.

**To join Jesus in serving those who thirst for righteousness
as well as those who hunger for justice.**

Now, from where we have been one, let us go.

**To find those who have been tossed aside,
gathering them up to bring them
to the Spirit's goodness and peace.**

*Sung Response Hymn No. 542, v. 1

“God Be with You Till we Meet Again”

Brad Stipcak, Organ

*Postlude

“Be Thou My Vision”

Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Jaron Marcus, Piano

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Participating in Worship Leadership:

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan, Presider

Carol Shannahan, Liturgist

Brad Stipcak, Director of Music, Organ

Jaron Marcus, Piano

Peter Sandquist, Audio/Visual

Anton Ahrens, Audio/Visual

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