Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023

Gathering God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (Time for Silent Preparation)

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Bonnie Mecaughey

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

Invocation

Bonnie Mecaughey

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Praise Song Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see You, I want to see You. (2 times)

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your pow'r and love; As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see You, I want to see You. (2 times)

To see You high and lifted up, Shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out Your pow'r and love; As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, I want to see You!

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see You, I want to see You. (2 times)

Confessing God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Bonnie Mecaughey

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Bonnie Mecaughey

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,

yet too often we practice pride.

You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,

yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.

You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,

yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.

You freely forgave and healed,

yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.

You lived a perfectly holy life,

yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.

You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,

yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.

You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,

yet too often we deny you.

You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

vet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.

Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

♥ Gloria Patri

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. A-men, A-men.

Offering Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation How does God's love abide in anyone who has the

world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

Offering

Offertory Mike Lenz

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

YHYMN 51 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

<u>Proclaiming</u> God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon Why Pray? Dennis Lesher

Scripture Reading Colossians 1:9-14

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing

in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Sermon

"A Prayer for the Church" Rev. Dr. Dennis Lesher



All I Have is Christ

Verse 1

I once was lost in darkest night yet thought I knew the way, The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave. I had no hope that you would own a rebel to Your will, And if you had no loved me first I would refuse you still.

Verse 2

But as I ran my hellbound race, indiffrent to the cost, You looked upon my helpless state, and led me to the cross. And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place; You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is Grace!

Chorus

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ! Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

Verse 3

Now, Lord I would be Yours alone and live so all might see, The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me. O Father use my ransomed life in any way you choose, And let my song forever be; My only boast is You!

Chorus (2x)

Responding We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

<u>Commissioning</u> God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

He Leadeth Me

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude