

20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 15, 2023

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Dawn of Peace* *Pope*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

‡ Call to Worship (*Responsively*) *Bonnie Mecaughey*

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
—Psalm 118:24, NRSV

‡ Invocation *Bonnie Mecaughey*

God our Father,
we call on you like little children because we know
that you love us and care for us like a loving parent.
Because your Son, Jesus, prayed to you as Father,
so we pray this way.
You created us to live with you and to ask for your
help and guidance. **Amen.**

‡ Praise Song *Cornerstone*

Verse 1 (2x)
My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly trust in Jesus's name.

Chorus

*Christ alone, Cornerstone; weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.*

Verse 2

*When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

Chorus

Verse 3

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.*

Chorus

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.
—based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

(Responsively)

Bonnie Mecaughey

Merciful God,
for the things we have done that we regret,
forgive us;
for the things we have failed to do that we regret,
forgive us;
for all the times we have acted without love,
forgive us;
for all the times we have reacted without thought,
forgive us;
for all the times we have withdrawn care,
forgive us;
for all the times we have failed to forgive,
forgive us.
For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid,
for unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes,
God of all time, forgive us and help us
to lay down our burden of regret. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.

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 Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Offering

Offertory *Nobody Loves Me Like You* *Tomlin*
 Bill Mecaughey

‡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

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

‡Hymn 43 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon *God Has No Grandchildren* *Dan Baker*

Scripture Reading *Galatians 3:19-26*

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was added for the sake of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise was made would come.

The law was put into effect through angels by means of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator is not just for one person alone, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law therefore contrary to God's promises? Absolutely not! For if the law had been granted with the ability to give life, then righteousness would certainly be on the basis of the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin's power, so that the promise might be given on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ to those who believe. ²³ Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. ²⁴ The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith. ²⁵ But since that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

"The Purpose of the Law"
Rev. Dr. Dennis Leshner

! Praise Song

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

*Jesus I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised, forsaken
Thou from hence my all shalt be
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heaven are still my own.*

*Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my savior too
Human hearts and looks deceive me,
Thou art not like them untrue
Oh while thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show thy face and all is bright.*

*Man they trouble and distress me,
Twill but drive me to thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest*

*Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me,
While thy love is left to me
Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with thee.*

*Go then earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In thy service pain is pleasure,
With thy favor loss is gain
I have called thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on thee
Storms may howl and clouds may gather,
All must work for good to me.*

*Soul then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.*

*Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! Profession of Faith (Colossians 1)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;**

in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.
—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

‡ Hymn 210

Jesus Paid it All

‡ Benediction & Blessing

‡ Postlude