

First United Methodist Church of Elgin
August 16, 2020

Prelude

Dr. Mindy Pugh

Welcome and Announcements

Cindy Palm, Liturgist

Opening Hymn

“I’m So Glad”
Matthew Weber, Dr. Mindy Pugh

TFWS 2151

The Call to Worship

Cindy Palm, Liturgist

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.

It is like a million voices, singing together in perfect harmony.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

Let us love each other as God loves us. Let us love as You command.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker,
for He is our God.

We are the people of his pasture. We are the flock under his care.

Opening Prayer

Cindy Palm, Liturgist

*Eternal God, you bring light out of the darkness and hope out of despair.
Share your love with us this day that we may better love each other. Touch our
hearts and help our love shine forth in a world hungry to know your love. Make us
one with you and with one another through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Offertory Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God”
Matthew Weber, Dr. Mindy Pugh

TFWS 2152

Doxology

UMH 94



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Scripture Reading

Acts 6:1-10 (MSG)

Cindy Palm, Liturgist

¹⁻⁴ During this time, as the disciples were increasing in number by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers, - “Hellenists” - toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we’ll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we’ll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God’s Word.”

⁵⁻⁶ The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose - Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,
Philip,
Procorus,
Nicanor,
Timon,
Parmenas,
Nicolas, a convert from Antioch.

Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task.

⁷ The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith.

⁸⁻¹⁰ Stephen, brimming with God’s grace and energy, was doing wonderful things among the people, unmistakable signs that God was among them. But then some men from the meeting place whose membership was made up of freed slaves, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some others from Cilicia and Asia, went up against him trying to argue him down. But they were no match for his wisdom and spirit when he spoke.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

**Perceiving the New Thing God is Doing In This Season:
Moving Towards New Things Causes Us to Face our Biases**



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Sermon Text

Acts 10:9-23, 27-35 (NIV)

⁹About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹²It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

¹⁴“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

¹⁶This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

¹⁷While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

²¹Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

²²The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.” ²³Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.

²⁷While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

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Sermon Text (continued)

³⁰Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this house, as three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. ³²Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ ³³So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

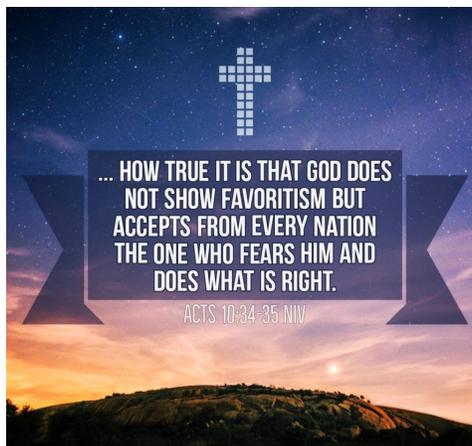
Closing Hymn

“Help Us Accept Each Other”
Matthew Weber, Dr. Mindy Pugh

UMH 560

Postlude

Dr. Mindy Pugh



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