

First United Methodist Church of Elgin
September 27, 2020

Prelude

Jonathan Besançon

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Announcements

Matthew Weber

Stewardship Moment

Duane Werth



The Call to Worship

Cindy Palm, liturgist

Your love, God, is our song, and we will sing it!

We are forever telling everyone how faithful You are.

We will never quit telling the story of Your love.

How you built the cosmos and guaranteed everything in it.

Your love has always been our lives foundation.

Your faithfulness has been the roof over our world.

Opening Song

“In Christ Alone”
Worship & Song 3105

M. Weber

Opening Prayer

Cindy Palm, liturgist

You know us, O God; you understand our worries and fears. Open our hearts to your transforming love and make us a community that shares strength, bears burdens, builds faith and provides encouragement through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory

“Come Thou Fount”

M. Weber



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Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-16 (MSG) Cindy Palm, liturgist

1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

9-11 Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, *ever*, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

12-13 What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, double your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

14-16 Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.



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Joys and Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Meditation

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

Jonathan Besançon

Lowry/arr. Wilhelmi

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

**Stewardship Week 2 (Presence):
Organism, Not Organization**

Sermon Text

1 Corinthians 12:13-26 (NIV)

¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



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Closing Song

“How Firm a Foundation”
United Methodist Hymnal 529

M. Weber

Sending Forth

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

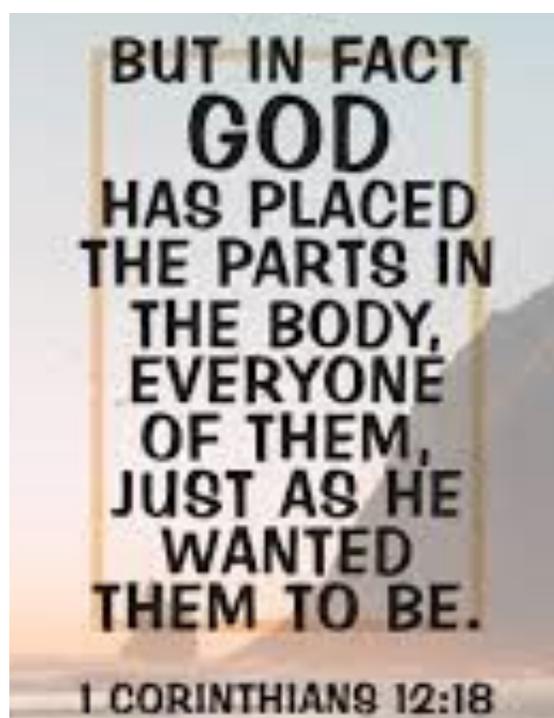
Response

“As We Go”

M. Weber

Postlude

Jonathan Besançon



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Elgin IL 60120

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