

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 29, 2024
The Sunday before the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Responsive Call to Worship

We are called together

To worship God as the people of God.

God calls us by name and knows what rests in our minds and our hearts, and calls us:

To worship God as the people of God.

We come yearning to be transformed and redirected to paths of justice and in ways of love so that in truth we can turn to God:

To worship God as the people of God.

God invites us to worship as beloved and loving people and together:

To worship God as the people of God.

Hymn 733 O God of love, true Source of peace

**1. O God of love, true source of peace,
make wars throughout the world to cease;
the wrath of sinful hearts restrain:
give peace, O God, give peace again.**

**2. Remember, Lord, your works of old,
the wonders that our forebears told;
remember not our sin's deep stain:
give peace, O God, give peace again.**

**3. Whom shall we trust but you, O God?
Where rest but on your faithful word?
None ever called on you in vain:
give peace, O God, give peace again.**

**4. Where saints and angels dwell above,
all hearts are knit in holy love;
oh bind us in that heavenly chain:
give peace, O God, give peace again**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 760 Where cross the crowded ways of life

**1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,**

above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

3. From tender childhood's helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.

4. The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.

5. O Saviour, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
oh tread the city's streets again;

6. Till human hearts shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

In recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we recall then who we are and what we have done. And so, to begin again with you and one another, we confess our sins:

We confess that we have failed to comfort those in pain, ignored the needs of others, and not sought peace or worked for justice. And we confess the sins of your church in running residential schools that separated children from their families. We confess that in our cultural arrogance where there was laughter, we stifled it; where families lived warmly together, we broke them up, and where there was dignity, and we stole it.

We repent of our past sins and pray for the strength to walk a new good way with you and one another.

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 451 Dear Father, Lord of humankind

**1. Dear Father, Lord of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**3. O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Je sus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.**

**4. With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the ten der whisper of thy call,
as noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.**

**5. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess**

the beauty of Thy peace.

**6. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 18:7-14 p. 468 NT & Psalms

⁷ Then the earth quaked and trembled.

The foundations of the mountains shook;
they quaked because of his anger.

**⁸ Smoke poured from his nostrils;
fierce flames leaped from his mouth.
Glowing coals blazed forth from him.**

⁹ He opened the heavens and came down;
dark storm clouds were beneath his feet.

**¹⁰ Mounted on a mighty angelic being, he flew,
soaring on the wings of the wind.**

¹¹ He shrouded himself in darkness,
veiling his approach with dark rain clouds.

**¹² Thick clouds shielded the brightness around him
and rained down hail and burning coals.**

¹³ The Lord thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded
amid the hail and burning coals.

**¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered his enemies;
great bolts of lightning flashed, and they were confused.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale
House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Zechariah 8:16-17 p. 774 pew Bible

Romans 13:8-10 p. 277 New Testament with Psalms

Matthew 5:1-11, 17-18 p. 8 New Testament with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Truth and reconciliation

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say

**1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
oh receive my soul at last!**

**2. Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

**4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

All that we have comes from you, O God. Use our lives and the gifts we offer to build a more peaceful and just world that reflects the principles of your reign and the Good News of peace, healing and reconciliation Christ taught.

Hymn 677 My faith looks up to Thee

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine:
now hear me when I pray;
take all my guilt away;
oh let me from this day
be wholly thine.**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be,
a living fire.**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love,**

**fear and distrust remove;
oh bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude