

15 Pentecost: September 13, 2020

Gathering

Prelude: Allegretto from “Hamburger Sonata”

C.P.E. Bach

Opening Hymn: “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

- 1 My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul - how can I keep from singing?
- 2 What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
- 3 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing:
All things are mine since I am His -- How can I keep from singing?

Litany of Thanksgiving for Return to In-Person Worship

Read by alternating men, women, all.

*M Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.*

W Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God’s benefits—

**A who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;**

*M who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;*

W who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

**A O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

*M You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.*

W Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**A you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

*M You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.*

W For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**A As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love for those who revere Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Go and offer forgiveness in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless Linda, who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day: “God, When Human Bonds are Broken”

- 1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.
- 2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.
- 3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.
- 4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.
- 5 Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew!

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

The Peace

L: Peace be with you. Remember, God holds us together even when we're apart.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: We now eat and drink Christ's forgiveness.

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.

Prayer after Communion

P: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Rondo from “Hamburger Sonata”

C.P.E. Bach

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Susan Bardes, Cellist

Terry McDowell, Assisting Minister

Linda Miller, Reader

Chet Laine, Peace

Music:

"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken": Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #726103-A.

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

To give your offering through our website, please visit stpaulreading.org/online-giving/

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Christian**; **Kathy Curless**; **George Demetriades** (Portmanns' friend); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Norb Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Eckerle and Wuestefeld families**; **Lee Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Ben Ferguson** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Regina Laursen** (Portmanns' friend); **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Carroll Mayhugh**; **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara and Jack Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Brenda Schumacher** (Marilyn Portmann's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Jack Spelman**; **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie

Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner**; **Jeanne Wagner**; **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle**; **Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry**, **Jack and Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**, **Heather Segar**.

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13

10:30 am Worship (in-person and livestreamed)

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

Tuesday, September 15

4 pm Zoom Bible Study

Saturday, September 19

2-5 pm The Gathering (East lawn)

Sunday, September 20

10:30 am Worship (in-person and livestreamed)

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

Tuesday, September 22

4 pm Zoom Bible Study