

The Lord's Day, September 20, 2020
The Christian Year: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM Morning Service

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." Isaiah 43:1-3*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Voluntary for Silent Prayer

***Call to Worship: Psalm 34**

Minister: I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears!

People: Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

Minister: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

People: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

Unison: Come, let us sing and praise our God!

***Hymn of Adoration: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (No. 38)**

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we
praise.

3 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

2 Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness
and love.

***Prayer of Adoration and Congregational Prayer**

King of Glory, Divine Majesty: Every perfection adorns your nature and sustains your throne. The heavens and earth are yours, the world is yours and its fullness. Your power created the universe from nothing; your wisdom has managed all its multiple concerns, presiding over nations, families, and individuals. Your goodness is boundless; all creatures wait on you, are supplied by you, and are satisfied in you. To the weary you give rest. The ignorant you make wise unto salvation. For the helpless, your strength is made perfect in weakness. And the poor and needy you bless with Christ's unsearchable riches. Blessed be your name forever! Amen.

Adapted from "God All-Sufficient" from The Valley of Vision

***Confession of Faith: Westminster Larger Confession, Q&A 7**

Minister: What is God?

People: God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

***Gloria (Tune: Gloria Patri, Creatorex)**

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. Amen. Amen.

Psalter Reading: Psalm 13

Minister: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

People: How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Minister: Look on me and answer, O Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

People: my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

Minister: But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

People: I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me.

***Hymn of Preparation: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" (No. 508)**

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,
O receive my soul at last!

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.

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.

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.

The Prayers of the People

All: All-seeing God, we confess our sinful response to the trials and discomforts of our lives.

Minister: While in the depths of woe, we have often resented our need for you and not lifted our eyes to you, the only one who can bring us true help. Instead, we have directed our gaze to earthly things that falsely promise escape and comfort. In our willful blindness to the love and comfort you offer us, we are found completely guilty in your holy sight.

People: Perfect Savior, as we continually stray from your love and your law, look upon our helpless state and lead us to your cross.

Minister: Thank you, Jesus, that you looked perfectly to the Father in every situation of your life, trusting him completely in all things. We are deeply grateful that you never stopped trusting him, even when he did not allow the cup of condemnation that we deserve to pass from you.

People: Loving God, soften our hearts to delight in your love for us.

Minister: Change us into sons and daughters who are so enraptured with the story of the gospel that we run to our beautiful Savior as we experience suffering in our lives. Help us to trust you as you call us into journeys that we do not want to take, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Give us strength to believe that from your own fullness you will repay all that you take from us.

All: Lift our eyes afresh to the cross of our Savior. In his name we come. Amen.

Adapted from Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration by Duguid

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Encouragement

Minister: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. (II Corinthians 4:6-10)

Unison: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

***Hymn of Response: "How Firm a Foundation" (No. 94, verses 1-3)**

1 How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Worship of God through Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology (Tune: Old Hundredth)**

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; Amen

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

***Reading of The Holy Scriptures: Genesis 40:1-41:32**

***The Prayer for Illumination**

Sermon: "A God-Centered Theology" (Rev. Seth Wallace)

***Hymn of Response: "How Firm a Foundation" (No. 94, verses 4-6)**

4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

5 "E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

6 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

***The Benediction**

Postlude

**Denotes congregational standing, if able.*

If you would like someone to pray with you, an Elder will be available at the front of the sanctuary following the service.