

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 16, 2017

6th Sunday after Pentecost / 15th Sunday Ordinary Time / Proper 10

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together.

We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.

** indicates please stand as you are able.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Don Meekhof

PRELUDE

“Dorian Pastorale”

Roger C. Wilson

Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Kristen Robertson

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

**Your word is our heritage forever,
the joy of our hearts.**

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***SONGS OF WORSHIP:**

“COME SING, O CHURCH, IN JOY”

(VERSE 1)

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise
the Lord!

(VERSE 2)

Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns
supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise
the Lord!

(VERSE 3)

Let courage be our friend, Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise
the Lord!

(VERSE 4)

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise
the Lord!

“WE ARE CALLED TO BE GOD’S PEOPLE”

(Hymn #710)

(VERSE 1)

We are called to be God’s people,
showing by our lives his grace,
one in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.
Let us show how he has changed us,
and remade us as his own,
let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.

(VERSE 2)

We are called to be God’s servants,
working in his world today;
taking his own task upon us, all his sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to his summons,
dedicate to him our all,
that we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now his call.

(VERSE 3)

We are called to be God’s prophets,
speaking for the truth and right,
standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.
Let us seek the courage needed,
our high calling to fulfill,
that the world may know the blessing of the doing of God’s will.

TIME OF PRAYER

Walter Welch

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Call to Confession

The Scriptures are shot through with stories
of people just like us:
men who grieved, women who questioned,
siblings who did not get along,
parents who chose favorites.

God’s word of grace is meant for people just like us.
There is no need for pretense in this place.

Let us go to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

**Patient and persistent God,
we come, polished and presentable,
to this comfortable room
as if we knew what to expect,
as if this were a safe and predictable place,
as if we could simply observe.**

**Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.
In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.
Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts
until we bloom and spill with your passion
to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.**

[Silent Prayer]

Declaration of Forgiveness

There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
The Spirit of God dwells in you.
If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:
there is no condemnation.
In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

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SONG OF WORSHIP:

please remain seated

"BEAUTIFUL THINGS"

(VERSE 1)

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really
Change at all

(CHORUS 1)

**You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust**

(VERSE 2)

All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this
Ground at all

(VERSE 3)

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being
Found in you

(CHORUS 2)

**You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us**

(REPEAT)

(BRIDGE)

*You make me new. You are making me new
You make me new. You are making me new*

(REPEAT)

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Don Meekhof

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS Kristen Robertson

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Invitation to the Offering

We bring our gifts
because tendrils of God's love have worked their ways
into the soil of our hearts.
Sisters and brothers, let us yield our lives
to God's abundant harvest.

***Doxology**

**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/Dedication

Giver of life,
we do not want the cares of the world
and the lure of wealth
to choke your word among us.
As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully,
so we long to participate in your seeding of the world.
Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives.
Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us
until we yield and grow in grace,
for we pray in the name of Jesus,
who came out of love for the world. **Amen.**

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*You may bring your offering and light a candle at the front or back
of the sanctuary.*

The children are excused to attend Junior Chapel.

Offertory

"Poème"
Esther Higgins

Organ

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lois Robertson

Isaiah 55:10–13 (NIV)

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the
eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,

and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 (NIV)

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:
¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

MESSAGE

Jamie Fiorino

"Let Anyone With Ears Listen!"

Reflection Question: Are you a sower, a gardener, or a botanist? Make a list of 10 ways YOU can sow, garden, or study before Christmas. Spend some time in prayer today for seeds that you have sown and those you have yet to plant.

***SONG OF WORSHIP:**

“FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION”

(Hymn #379)

(VERSE 1)

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping
future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

(VERSE 2)

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

(VERSE 3)

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,

most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Jamie Fiorino

POSTLUDE

Organ

“Postlude on Traditional Irish Tune”

Fred B. Binckes

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Our guest preacher this morning is Jamie Fiorino. A Spokane native, five of Jamie’s favorite things about Spokane are (in no particular order): the big red slide and garbage-eating goat at Riverfront Park, how the spires of St. John’s Episcopal always reminds her of Batman’s silhouette, the Lilac parade, the Bowl & Pitcher, and running into someone she knows practically everywhere in town. She is trying to take in as much Spokane as she can before returning to Princeton Seminary, where she will graduate in 306 days.

Today’s Lectionary Readings

Genesis 25:19–34

Romans 8:1–11

Psalms 119:105–112

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Questions for Reflection

How is God’s resurrecting Spirit at work in you and in your community? Where are you experiencing new life? Where are you struggling? How might God be bringing new life from that struggle?

Household Prayer: Morning

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Living Word, shine on this day.

Quicken my steps and open my ears
that I might approach each neighbor
with an expectant heart. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Beacon of truth,

I entrust to you now the day that has been:
the tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked;
the friends acknowledged and the friends ignored;
the silence kept and the silence squandered.

In your mercy, mend these tattered offerings.

Grant me the gift of rest this night
and good companions on the morrow,
as you speak me further down the path toward home. Amen.

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