

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship¹

One: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers:

All: we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

One: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims nearing the end of the journey:

All: each of us is seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

One: Builders of bridges in broken communities,
those who stand on either side of walls made of fear:

All: in faithfulness, the Spirit calls us to live as one people – God's people!

One: Let us worship God!

Hymn 309 *Come, Great God of All the Ages (vrs. 1 & 4)* ABBOT'S LEIGH

Call to Confession

Even our best intentions go awry when we are not at one with God's purpose. Our gracious God journeys with us and provides for us with endless mercy, patience, and kindness. When we repent, we find ourselves forgiven. Let us therefore confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Eternal God, we confess that sometimes
we act as if we are in control,**

and that you will bless whatever we do.

**We only think of others
when we consider their usefulness to us.**

**We only care about your creation
to the extent that it benefits us.**

**We have often failed to show your love
or to do the justice you want from us.**

Have mercy on us, God of grace.

Forgive our sin and restore our souls.

**Use us to break down walls of hostility
inside your church,**

within our nation,

and around the world.

In the name of Christ Jesus; Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, you are God's beloved children, made in God's image. Your heart belongs to God, and there is nothing you can do to change that. Show mercy, for God's mercy and grace are with you. Practice compassion and loving-kindness; seek forgiveness, and know this amazing good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*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.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God's Word

from Ephesians 2:13-14

Gracious God, may the reading of your word draw near to you those of us once far off. May the hearing of your word break down the dividing walls between us, for Jesus Christ, your living Word, is our peace. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ephesians 2:12-22

¹² At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. ¹³ But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. ¹⁵ He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

¹⁷ When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. ¹⁸ We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. ¹⁹ So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. ²⁰ As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Anthem

Be Present, Spirit of the Lord

Dudley-Smith and Beall

Second Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11

When the king was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, “Look! I’m living in a cedar palace, but God’s chest is housed in a tent!”

³ Nathan said to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But that very night the LORD’s word came to Nathan: ⁵ Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. ⁶ In fact, I haven’t lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. ⁷ Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel’s tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven’t you built me a cedar temple?

⁸ So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. ⁹ I’ve been with you wherever you’ve gone, and I’ve eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. ¹⁰ I’m going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, ¹¹ when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you.

Sermon

Whose House?

Responding to the Word

Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service (vrs. 1 & 2)

BEECHER

Deacon Ordination & Installation

We celebrate the installation of Katie Jones, George Joplin, Susie Lackey, Stephanie Ousley, and Marty Whitson to the office of Deacon.

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Dedicating our Gifts

*God spreads a table of blessings before us. Let us express our gratitude
by giving a portion of what has been given to us.*

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Charge & Benediction

Blessing

HYMN 748 *Go With Us, Lord*

TALLIS' CANON

Postlude

ⁱ Today's Call to Worship adapted from Rev. Thom Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.com