

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship¹

One: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

One: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

All: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

One: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

Hymn 350

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning (vrs. 1 & 2)

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

Call to Confession

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy and desire to forgive.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of light,

we confess that we live in the shadows
of hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

James 1:17

We honor you with our lips,
but we have not served you in our hearts.

Mark 7:6

We are satisfied with human ways and norms
and ignore your liberating truth.

Mark 7:7-8

We have confused meekness with weakness,
holiness with social conformity,
and anger with righteousness.

James 1:19-20

Forgive us, we pray.

By the power of your word
save us from the bondage of our selfishness
so that we may serve you with sincere hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

from James 1:17-27

Our generous and loving God has given us the perfect gift: Jesus Christ our Lord, who has liberated us from dead tradition and made us new by revealing to us the living Word, filling our hearts with God's love. Dear friends, hear and believe the 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.*

Hymn 300

We Are One in the Spirit (vrs. 1 & 4)

THEY'LL KNOW
WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God's Word

from Deuteronomy 4:8-9

Lord, by the power of your Spirit open our hearts and minds to receive your Word, that we not forget the wonders you have done, nor neglect to make them known to our children, nor fail to tell them to the world. **Amen.**

Hebrew Bible Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Now, Israel, in light of all that, listen to the regulations and the case laws that I am teaching you to follow, so that you may live, enter, and possess the land that the LORD, your ancestors' God, is giving to you. ²Don't add anything to the word that I am commanding you, and don't take anything away from it. Instead, keep the commands of the LORD your God that I am commanding all of you.

⁶Keep them faithfully because that will show your wisdom and insight to the nations who will hear about all these regulations. They will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and insightful people!" ⁷After all, is there any great nation that has gods^[a] as close to it as the LORD our God is close to us whenever we call to him? ⁸Or does any great nation have regulations and case laws as righteous as all this Instruction that I am setting before you today?

⁹But be on guard and watch yourselves closely so that you don't forget the things your eyes saw and so they never leave your mind as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren.

Psalm Reading Psalm 15

Who can live in your tent, LORD?

Who can dwell on your holy mountain?

²The person who
lives free of blame,

does what is right,
and speaks the truth sincerely;
³ who does no damage with their talk,
does no harm to a friend,
doesn't insult a neighbor;
⁴ someone who despises
those who act wickedly,
but who honors those
who honor the LORD;
someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts;
⁵ someone who doesn't lend money with interest,
who won't accept a bribe against any innocent person.
Whoever does these things will never stumble.

Hymn 69

Here I Am, Lord (vrs. 1 & 2)

HERE I AM (Schutte)

Epistle Reading

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth by his true word, and here is the result: we are like the first crop from the harvest of everything he created.

¹⁹ Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. ²⁰ This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

²² You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. ²³ Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. ²⁴ They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

²⁶ If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. ²⁷ True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:5-8, 14-15, 21-23

⁵ So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

*This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far away from me.*

⁷ *Their worship of me is empty
since they teach instructions that are human words.* ^[a]

⁸ You ignore God’s commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you.”

¹⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God’s sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person.”^[a]

²¹ “It’s from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, ²² adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God’s sight.”

Responding to the Word

Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (vrs. 1, 4, & 5)* AMAZING GRACE

Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Dedication of the Offering

O God, receive these gifts for the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

from Mark 7:14; James 1:25, 27

Listen to the life-giving words of Jesus Christ our Lord! Look into God's perfect law of liberty and persevere in God's blessing! Live in God's love, caring for those in need from a heart filled and blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore.

Blessing

"Irish Blessing"

*Inside back
of the hymnal*

Postlude

ⁱ Call to Worship adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada; presbyterian.ca/