

“But I say to you that listen,

Love

your enemies,

do good

to those who hate you,

bless

those who curse you,

pray

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace - to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessings, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Fanfare on EIN FESTE BURG* Pethel
Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT *See the Morning Sun Ascending* Parkin
Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: Come and learn the ways of life.
Many: *We have come to follow Jesus.*
One: Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.
Many: *We have come to follow Jesus.*
One: Bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you.
Many: *We have come to follow Jesus.*
One: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
Many: *We have come to follow Jesus.*
One: Come and learn the ways of life.
Many: *We have come to follow Jesus. Let us worship God!*

***HYMN OF PRAISE: 643** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CALL TO CONFESSION *Rev. John White*

The world says that we get what we deserve. When we believe that, we hide our true selves from God and pretend to be without sin or deny the reality of our falling short of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us the truth. Grace is God's gift to us. God is merciful. God's love is the final word. Trusting in the grace, mercy, and love of God let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Rev. John White*

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love freely given without expectation or strings attached. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others. (continued)

We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return. We would rather love those who are easiest to love. Forgive us, Redeeming God. So transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love that our relationships are transformed as we extend your mercy and grace as an expression of our gratitude for your saving love we know in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: Children of the Most-High God, through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure - spilling out and running over.
Many: Thanks be to God.
One: Now, go and live as Christ commands: Be merciful, as God is merciful; do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; but forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
Many: Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 441**

Hear the Good News of Salvation (verse 2)
All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing;
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

NETTLETON

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
Many: And, also, with you.

THE WORD

***HYMN: 346 For the Healing of the Nations**

ST. THOMAS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

ACT OF PRAISE

Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee
Choir Interns

K. Lee Scott

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
(pg. 42)

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27-38

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(pg. 64-65)

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

Many: ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

The Measure You Give

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A Declaration of Faith*

Rev. John White

Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY

Pastel on Steal Away to Jesus

Callahan

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 591)

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.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 697** *Take My Life*

HENDON

SENDING

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude, and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

SENDING FORTH

God Be with You

Rankin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

Bach

Dr. Terry McRoberts