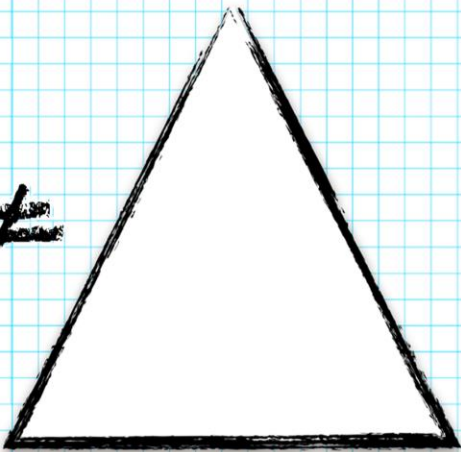
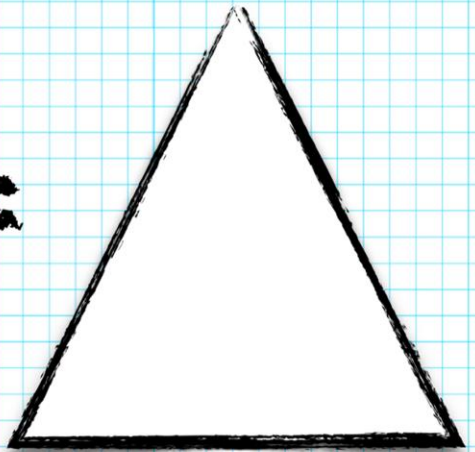


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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Loving Father: whenever we wander, in mercy you find us. Help us to forgive without pride or ill will, as you forgive us, so that your joy may be our 's; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Christoferson

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on LOBE DEN HERREN

Walther

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marlie Richardson

One: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

ALL: *You know when I sit down and when I rise up.*

One: Where can I go from your spirit?

ALL: *Where can I flee from your presence?*

One: If I ascend into heaven, you are there.

ALL: *If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*

One: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, you are there.

ALL: *If I hide under the cover of darkness, you are there.*

One: You are here, O Lord.

ALL: *You are here, O God.*

One: Search us, O God, and know our hearts;

ALL: *Cleanse us of those things which would distract us. Come to us where we are, and lead us into worship with joy and thanksgiving.*

***HYMN: 33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show**

LLANFAIR

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

James Christoferson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

James Christoferson

One: Merciful God, your joy reflects a love so broad that it enfolds all people. A love that despairs when people, for whatever reason, lose their way in life and feel lost and rejected. Forgive us when we contribute to that despair by our failure to do as Jesus did – to seek out and save the lost. Remind us that: When we hold on to judgmental

attitudes and neglect people we believe do not measure up to our standards of righteousness,

ALL: *those who have lost faith are not found.*

One: When our apathy allows people to remain in the clutches of evil,

ALL: *those who have lost hope are not found.*

One: When we falter in our commitment to support those who are weakened by poverty and illness,

ALL: *those who have lost a sense of worth are not found.*

One: When we fail to welcome or reach out to the stranger, the uprooted, the refugee,

ALL: *those who have lost family and friends, home and country, are not found.*

One: We remember the times, O God, when your mercy has sought us out, picked us up, held us tenderly, and rejoiced.

ALL: *Strengthen us with your Spirit to reflect this same mercy as we seek to do as Jesus did – to seek out and save those who are lost and to love them as unconditionally as he did. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

James Christoferson

One: Our God, who restores and resurrects, grants us new life in Jesus Christ.
Know that you are forgiven and live fully in joyful freedom.

ALL: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

James Christoferson

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

*HYMN: 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

James Christoferson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

James Christoferson

ACT OF PRAISE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Lorna Chambers, Israel Gonzales

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marlie Richardson

FIRST READING *Psalm 145* (page 581)

Marlie Richardson

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

SECOND READING *Matthew 11:25-30* (page 12)

James Christoferson

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Second Most Important Four-Letter Word

James Christoferson

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)*

Marlie Richardson

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

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

OFFERING

Marlie Richardson

OFFERTORY

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

arr. Bock

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

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

Marlie Richardson

SENDING

***HYMN: 442** *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

James Christoferson

POSTLUDE

Postlude in the 18th Century Style

Thiman

Dr. Terry McRoberts