



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John White

PRELUDE

Intrada

Young

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Sing a New Song to the Lord
Chancel Choir

Hopson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: We have gathered this morning as Christ's disciples; learners of the ways of God.

ALL: *Among us there are all sorts of disciples:*

One: Disciples who readily open their ears to the call of Christ;

ALL: *Disciples who ask questions, and passionately pursue the ways of Christ;*

One: Disciples who have good intentions, but who are easily distracted by the ways of the world;

ALL: *Disciples who find their greatest wholeness in service;*

One: Disciples who are confident that they have found most of the answers to the questions of faith;

ALL: *Disciples who humbly confess that they have few answers.*

In this time of worship, let us rejoice in our shared discipleship, and commit ourselves anew to the ways of Christ!

*HYMN: 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION + PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

One: Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.

ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*

One: When we separate worship and world, practicing religion but not loving our neighbor,

ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*

One: When we are driven by a selfish desire for worldly things,

ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*
 One: When we are blind to your grace and love,
ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*
 One: When we love the wrong things,
ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*
 One: When we cling to our thoughts and ways while refusing yours,
ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*
 One: Where our pattern has been to take, abuse, and hide,
 restore us to your pattern of taking, blessing, and giving.
ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways.*
 One: When we are tested by temptation,
ALL: *Lord have mercy and bring us back to your ways. Forgive us and lead us in your way of righteousness. Through Christ we pray, AMEN.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. John White

One: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

ALL: *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find undeserved grace and forgiveness. Thanks be to God for God's abundant mercy! 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

Rev. John White

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

THE WORD

ANTHEM

He Keeps Me Singing Medley
 Chancel Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. John White

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

*HYMN: 434 *Restore in Us, O God*

BAYLOR

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 (page 14)*

Rev. John White

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

SERMON

Seeds of the Kingdom

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

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

Rev. John White

*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.*

OFFERING

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY

All Through the Night

arr. Burtonwood

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

Rev. John White

SENDING

***HYMN: 175** *Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

***CHARGE**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Amen

Rutter

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Postlude on an Original Antiphon

Uehlein

Dr. Terry McRoberts