

Celtic Evensong
Trinity United Methodist Church
JULY 25, 2021, 5 P.M.



Welcome and Announcements

Eileen Gilmer

Prelude*For the Beauty of the Earth*
All Things Bright and Beautiful (Royal Oak)Pierpoint
trad. English**A Prayer for the Evening**

Neil Hough

Loving and caring God, we come this day seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives. Open us to your words of life and love and truth. May we proclaim with our tongues what we know in our hearts. Help us more fully understand what it means to truly be a disciple, a follower of the way of Jesus, a follower of the path of wisdom. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Call to Worship

Hough

Wisdom cries out in the streets.
We hear and struggle to understand.
Come and listen to the words of life and love.
Let us worship the God of life and wisdom
whose words guide our life on the right paths.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Gilmer

God, we come today to give you thanks and to worship you in spirit and in truth. We thank you for your grace and mercy. Lord, we thank you for wisdom. She is crying out to us, and we have ignored her. She is crying out, and we have mocked her. Lord, she is crying out, and we have scoffed at her long enough. Today is the day that we cry out, acknowledging that we need her. We understand far too well the cruelties of this world. Give us your wisdom, Lord. We need wisdom so that we can handle the uncertainties of life. She no longer has to cry. God, we hear wisdom loud and clear. It's in Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

Musical Response*Alleluia***Scripture Reading**

Proverbs 1:20-33

Hough

Wisdom shouts in the streets.
She cries out in the public square.
She calls to the crowds along the main street,
to those gathered in front of the city gate:
“How long, you simpletons,
will you insist on being simpleminded?
How long will you mockers relish your mocking?
How long will you fools hate knowledge?
Come and listen to my counsel.
I'll share my heart with you
and make you wise.

“I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come.
I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.
You ignored my advice
and rejected the correction I offered.
So I will laugh when you are in trouble!
I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—
when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone,
and anguish and distress overwhelm you.
“When they cry for help, I will not answer.
Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.
For they hated knowledge
and chose not to fear the LORD.
They rejected my advice
and paid no attention when I corrected them.
Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way,
choking on their own schemes.
For simpletons turn away from me—to death.
Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.
But all who listen to me will live in peace,
untroubled by fear of harm.”

Music for Meditation

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Martin & Gabriel

Message

Wisdom Cries Out

Eileen Gilmer

Reading

Hough

Wisdom cries out to us.

The question is not as much if we hear her—but whether we are willing to answer. We are tone deaf to Wisdom’s call when it makes us feel uncomfortable, inconvenienced or inept. In our society that values strength, God’s Wisdom demands us to be vulnerable. It is only when we put down our defenses that we are fully free to hear Wisdom’s way.

Have we become too accustomed to relying on our own understanding, our education, status or wealth? As if our title matters more to God than the willingness of our hearts.

How little credit we give to God—as though the God of all creation would call us, only to leave us without the resources needed to fulfill God’s plans.

May God have mercy on us as we await Wisdom’s call, Wisdom’s shout and Wisdom’s counsel.

May God have mercy as we realize our waiting is wasted time.

Truth be told, Wisdom has been boldly calling since

mankind’s

very

first

breath.

Music for Reflection

This is My Father's World

trad. English

Blessing

Gilmer

Go forth with the words of Wisdom crying in your ears.
Go forth with songs of hope singing in your heart.
Know that you are called to be faithful followers
of the One who will always be near you,
will always guide and encourage you
to walk the path of life. Amen.

Postlude

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young Postlethwaite & Irvine



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