



Bethlehem

United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 10, 2021

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING AND PRAISE

HYMN

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” (TFWS # 2128)

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being , touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other’s pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain.
There’s a place for deepest dreaming, there’s a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit’s lively scheming there is always room to spare.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving and faithful God, we gather today to be in your presence, to worship and praise your name. Thank you for meeting us here. But we also desire to be mindful of your presence and live our lives focused on You always. Lead us, teach us, meet, and greet us each day as we seek you and the rest you offer us. Thank you for meeting us always. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

CALL TO PRAYER

“Open Our Eyes Lord” (TFWS #2086)

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch him and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING for OFFERING, TITHES, AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 3:7-11, 4:1-13

3 ⁷So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, **8** do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, **9** where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did. **10** That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’ **11** So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”

4 Therefore, since the promise that we can enter into rest is still open, let’s be careful so that none of you will appear to miss it. **2** We also had the good news preached to us, just as the Israelites did. However, the message they heard didn’t help them because they weren’t united in faith with the ones who listened to it. **3** We who have faith are entering the rest. As God said, *And because of my anger I swore: “They will never enter into my rest!”*

And yet God’s works were completed at the foundation of the world. **4** Then somewhere he said this about the seventh day of creation: *God rested on the seventh day from all his works.* **5** But again, in the passage above, God said, *They will never enter my rest!* **6** Therefore, it’s left open for some to enter it, and the ones who had the good news preached to them before didn’t enter because of disobedience. **7** Just as it says in the passage above, God designates a certain day as “today,” when he says through David much later, *Today, if you hear his voice, don’t have stubborn hearts.*

8 If Joshua gave the Israelites rest, God wouldn’t have spoken about another day later on. **9** So you see that a sabbath rest is left open for God’s people. **10** The one who entered God’s rest also rested from his works, just as God rested from his own.

11 Therefore, let’s make every effort to enter that rest so that no one will fall by following the same example of disobedience, **12** because God’s word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the spirit and the joints from the marrow. It’s able to judge the heart’s thoughts and intentions. **13** No creature is hidden from it, but rather everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we have to give an answer.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Word of God, Speak” (W&S #3184)

Cheryl Jennings

I’m finding myself at a loss for word, and the funny thing is it’s okay.

The last think I need is to be heard, but to hear what you would say.

Word of God, speak. Would you pour down like rain, washing my eyes to see your majesty,

To be still and know that you’re in this place?

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God, speak.

I’m finding myself in the midst of you, beyond the music, beyond the noise.

All that I need is to be with You, and in the quiet, I hear your voice. Word of God, speak.

Word of God, speak. Would you pour down like rain, washing my eyes to see your majesty,

To be still and know that you’re in this place?

Please let me stay and rest in your holiness. Word of God, speak.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

“I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry” (TFWS #2051)

I was to hear your burning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was to hear your burning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

SENDING FORTH

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“May You Run and Not Be Weary” (TFWS #2281)

May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song.
And may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.