

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 8th at 10:00 a.m.

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker”

Psalm 95:6

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music

***Call to Worship**

Come, out of your busy lives to a quiet time and place

Our souls thirst for some peace and quiet.

Come, and rest in the Lord who will restore your souls.

Our lives need moments of rest.

Come and find the quiet center. Come, be at peace.

Praise God who offers to us a shelter and resting place.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we gather here this morning with lives that are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in you. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls. Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that you provide. Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” UMH #110. Words: Martin Luther.

Trans. by Frederick H. Hedge. Music: Martin Luther Harmony from The New Hymnal for American Youth. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**

**2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?**

Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

Prayer of Confession

Patient God, we wait all year for the summer months when we can rest and relax. Our schedules change from the demands of weekly living, to times which are supposed to be devoted to leisure. But we have redefined leisure to mean a flurry of activities. We need some time to rest, to sit quietly and listen to the beautiful sounds of the world. Forgive us when we are determined to crowd every moment of our lives with activity. Help us to find a quiet center with you where we can just relax and not try to get everything done as though life was some sort of a contest. Give us peace for a little while. Refresh our souls so that we can truly serve you, not out of exhaustion but out of enthusiasm. Be with us this day, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor: God's love awaits you. It has been lavished upon you as a gentle summer rain, refreshing your souls, opening your hearts, healing your wounds. Rest in God's eternal love. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Scripture Reading Psalm 46 (NRSV)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon “Be Still and Know” Rev. Matthew Sergent

Hymn “Be Still My Soul” UMH #534. Words: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God, to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: your God doth undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and wind still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.
In You I rest, in You I found my hope

3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last.

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

***Sending Forth Hymn** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" TFWS #2128. Words: Sydney Erena Murray. Music: Attributed to F. B. White. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

1. 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.

2. 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 with in our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3. 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.**

Benediction

You are God's beloved people, refreshed, restored, forgiven and healed. Go now into this world confident in the gifts God has given you. Go to serve God's people, bringing words of peace and hope to all whom you meet. Amen.

Postlude