SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

INTROIT *With What Shall I Come Before the Lord* John Ness Beck
(Timothy Wilds, baritone) Text: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal one,
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Dick Wigton

We are called to worship by the holy love of God.
We are called to worship by the faithfulness of Jesus.
We are called to worship by the Spirit's constant stirring.

Let us worship the living God.

***HYMN 716** *God Whose Giving Know No Ending* Beach Spring

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Steven Phillips

Merciful God,
We are overwhelmed by the needs of the world
and stymied by the limits of our imaginations.

Like the disciples so long ago,
we would rather be assured of rank and privilege,
than face a painful truth.

In this hour set apart,
soften our brittle hearts
until we welcome each of your beloved children
as we would welcome you.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 9:30-37

SERMON *"What a Child Can Teach Us"* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Brief Statement of Faith*
Dick Wigton

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation . . .
Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

MUSICAL MEDITATION *Give to My Eyes, Lord* Text: Colin Coppen
(Timothy Wilds, baritone) Music: Ronald Corp

Give to my eyes, Lord, the blessing of seeing your face
In all around me, the light of your glorious grace,
Help me to see the need of your people and be
Ready to go, Lord, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my feet, Lord, the blessing of walking your way,
Going wherever you lead me throughout the whole day.
Show me the paths that lead where your people need me,
Mine your own footsteps, wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my mouth, Lord, the courage to speak of your cross,
Boldly proclaiming your death was a gain not a loss,
That through your love true justice and mercy may be
Building your kingdom wherever your Spirit leads me.

Give to my heart, Lord the grace to rejoice in your love,
Showing forgiveness and mercy and grace from above,
That by your word I'll share in the joys you give free,
Help me to go, Lord, wherever you Spirit leads me.

Jesus, take me, I offer my whole life to you,
And by my service I'll show that I'm faithful and true,
Help me to live and praise you, O Lord set me free,
That you may use me wherever your Spirit leads me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

***HYMN 757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* Kingsfold

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

***BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *Allegro Maestoso from Water Music Suite* G. F. Handel

Timothy Wilds, a lifelong friend of Steven Phillips, is a singer, actor, voice teacher, and music theater educator living in Flagler Beach, FL. He holds a double master's degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Timothy teaches voice at Daytona State College and is a company member at Beach Street Repertory Theater in Daytona Beach.