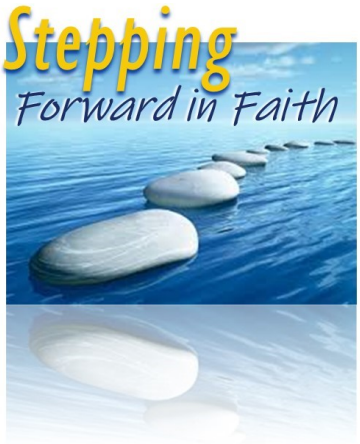
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 23, 2022
11:00 AM

For I know the plans
I have for you, says the Lord . . .
- Jeremiah 29:11



CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Steven Phillips

PRELUDE *Meditation Piece* S. Phillips

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** Rebecca Clissold

How lovely is the house of the Lord.
How beautiful to be gathered in the presence of God.
How lovely is the dwelling place of the Lord.
How beautiful is the image of God we behold in one another.

***HYMN 712** *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* FOREST GREEN

As those of old their firstfruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring,
the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Timothy Boggess

O Lord our God,
with you as our helper,
we have nothing to fear from anyone.

Yet, we confess,
we have allowed worry
to open the door to sin and discontent,
idolatry and the love of money,
the neglect of strangers,
and the failure to share.

Forgive us, O God,
for we thirst for you.
Grant us consistency of obedient faith
in Jesus Christ,
who is the same yesterday, today,
and forever.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ANTHEM *Do Not Be Afraid* Text by Gerard Markland
Music by Philip Stopford

Refrain
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames. **(Refrain)**

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes. **(Refrain)**

You are mine, O my child,
I am your Father and I love you.
I love you with a perfect love. **(Refrain)**

* **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrews 13:1-2, 16; Luke 14:1, 7-14 Pages 1098 and 951

SERMON *How to Get What You Want* Timothy Boggess

***DEDICATION OF PLEDGES**

Gracious God, creator of the world, giver of all that is good,
bless the gifts and the pledges we bring to you today.
These pledges represent our work, our hopes, and our dreams,
and we offer them in thanksgiving for all we have received.
May they be the first fruits of all we have,
and not what we have left over.
May we see these pledges as a sacred offering,
and not a gift of obligation or exchange.
May we use them wisely for your service,
to reflect your love to this city and this world.
May they move us to be more faithful disciples,
and energize us for lives of generosity.
In gratitude for the grace of God,
in the warmth of God's hospitality,
and in the spirit of the generosity embodied by Christ,
We dedicate these pledges to the work of God.
Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN 305** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* Darwall's 148th

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone,
and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision,
dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Steven Phillips

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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Study Catechism*, 1998, Question 51
Rebecca Clissold

Who are the needy?

The hungry need bread,
the homeless need a roof,
the oppressed need justice,
and the lonely need fellowship.

At the same time —
on another and deeper level —
the hopeless need hope,
sinners need forgiveness,
and the world needs the gospel.
On this level no one is excluded,
and all the needy are one.

Our mission as the church
is to bring hope to a desperate world
by declaring God's undying love —
as one beggar tells another
where to find bread.

*** HYMN 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.

***BENEDICTION** Timothy Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Steven Phillips

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