FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 11, 2022
11:00 AM

THOUGHTS OF PREPARATION (From *Song of Democracy* by Walt Whitman)

Sail, sail thy best, Ship of Democracy,
Of value is thy freight, 'tis not the present only,
The Past is also stored in thee.
Thou holdest not the venture of thyself alone,
not of thy Western continent alone.
Earth's resume entire floats on thy keel, O ship,
is steadied by thy spars,
With thee Time voyages in trust, the antecedent
nations sink or swim with thee.
With all their ancient struggles, martyrs, heroes,
epics, wars, thou bear'st the other continents;
Theirs, theirs as much as thine, the destination
port triumphant.

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Steven Phillips

MOMENT FOR DECIPLESHIP Dai Thao
S.U.R.E. Executive Director

PRELUDE *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* Spiritual/arr. Mark Hayes
(Glenn Priest, pianist)

CALL TO WORSHIP Jeff Bartell

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
The Lord heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
The Lord grants peace to your borders
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;
Let us make music to our God!

***HYMN 366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

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

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Steven Phillips

Holy One,
we gather today in community,
still imperfect in our love,
not yet fully formed.

Our fears often capture us so that we live in bondage,
too afraid to extend our love,
too ready to criticize others,
too easily giving up on the world,
too often grieving as those who have no hope.

Free us in your Spirit.
Breathe into us a new breath of life.
Lead us into the freedom of soul for which we were created.

(Please enter into a moment of silent listening)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** SONG OF JOY 327 – *From All That Dwell Below the Skies (verse 1)***

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!

*** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 3:6, 17-18

SERMON *To Remember and Learn* Steven Phillips

ANTHEM *I Lift My Lamp* Gwyneth Walker
(The Chancel Choir)

When I was hungry did you feed me?
When I was shivering did you bring be clothes?
When I was thirsty did you bring me water?
When I was homeless did you give a home?
When I was fearful did you give protection?
When I was injured did you offer care?
When I was threatened did you stand for justice?
And when imprisoned, keep a vigil there?
O my sisters, O my brothers!
If you do this for the least of these, you do this for me…
With God in your heart.

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

(Text from Matthew 25 and The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Michael Fingerle

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** From the *Sarasota Statement*, 2017 Jeff Bartell

**We trust our Lord and Savior who calls disciples to love unconditionally,
who confronts brutality by refusing to take arms,
and who defies racism by forming a community out of every tribe, people, and nation.**

**Jesus aligns with people who are poor, meek, persecuted, and reviled,
and calls the church to do the same.**

**To be a Christian is to be continuously undone and remade
by a Savior who encounters us in ways we might not expect,
through a collection of people we might otherwise reject, screen, or censor.**

**We trust that God is always at work in our world and in our lives,
giving us joy and calling us to be faithful
to Jesus' vision of the Kingdom. Amen.**

***HYMN 340** *This is My Song* FINLANDIA

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Fanfare* Nicholas Lemmens

*Our guest organist today is **Glenn Priest.** He received his Bachelor and Master degrees in Applied Piano from Boston University and completed his seminary work in theology at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Glenn has held worship leading roles at churches in Massachusetts, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and is now at Fairhaven Church, Ohio, where he is the Team Leader of Ministry Arts.*

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