

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

August 2, 2020

Prelude

Highland Cathedral Air

Piping Tune by Roever & Korb
Sara Hoey, Organist

Greeting and Call to Worship

We have gathered to give thanks to God, for God is good,

The Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Great is God's love, higher than the heavens.

The faithfulness of our God reaches to the skies.

For God is good; for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

When we were overwhelmed by sin,

God gave us the most priceless gift, even God's own Son, our Savior.

For God is good; for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

The Lord is with us, ready to satisfy the thirsty soul
and fill the hungry with good things.

For God is good; for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn of Praise

O Lord, You Are My God and King

O Lord, you are my God and King,

and I will ever bless your name;

I will extol you every day,

and evermore your praise proclaim.

You, Lord, are greatly to be praised;

your greatness is beyond our thought;

all generations shall tell forth

the mighty wonders you have wrought.

How rich in grace are you, O Lord,

full of compassion, merciful,

your anger always slow to rise;

your steadfast love you show to all,

for you are good in all your ways;

your creatures know your constant care.

To all your works your love extends;

all souls your tender mercies share.

**Your works will give you thanks, O Lord;
your saints your mighty acts will show,
till all the peoples of the earth
your kingdom, power, glory know.
Eternal is your kingdom, Lord,
forever strong, forever sure;
while generations rise and die,
your high dominion will endure.**

Call to Confession

Karen Luicci

Responsive Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we spend a lot of time and energy
in the pursuit of what does not satisfy for long.

**We forget your promises and provisions
and fail to recognize the gifts you have placed in our very laps.**

We become impatient so quickly.

Our courage falters in the face of hardships and perils.

And soon we fall into times of sadness and despair.

We underestimate the extent of your love and the lavishness of your gifts.

Forgive such doubts and ingratitude.

**Bring us to the overwhelming victory that can be ours;
through Jesus Christ who loved us and loves us still. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's forgiveness

Hear the good news: The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that he has made.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

God fulfills the desire of all who fear him;

God also hears their cry, and saves them.

The psalmist assured us that the Lord watches over all who fear God.

**The waters of baptism confirmed the promise
that in God's hands we are safe and secure.**

The One who calls you is faithful and will not let you go.

Friends: Believe the good news!

Through Jesus Christ, we know ourselves accepted, forgiven, and beloved.

Alleluia! Amen!

Affirmation of Faith (From *The Confession of 1969*, 9.35-38)

Wherever the church exists,
its members are both gathered in corporate life
and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

**The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind,
to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper,**

To pray for and present the world to God in worship,
to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort,
to order and organize its own corporate life,

**To be tested, renewed, and reformed,
and to speak and act in the world's affairs
as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.**

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are:
at work or play, in private or in the life of society.

**Their prayer and Bible study
are part of the church's worship and theological reflection.**

Their witness is the church's evangelism.

Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world.

The quality of their relation with other persons
is the measure of the church's fidelity.

**Each member is the church in the world,
endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry
and is responsible for the integrity of his or her witness
in each particular situation.**

Each member is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community
and is subject to its advice and correction.

**In turn, each member, in her or his own competence,
helps to guide the church.**

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Testament Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Trad. Spiritual, Arr. Hayes
Donna Wittmann, soloist

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14:6-21

When Herod's birthday came,
the daughter of Herodias danced before the company,
and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath
to grant her whatever she might ask.
Prompted by her mother, she said,
'Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.'
The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests,
he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison.
The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl,
who brought it to her mother.
John's disciples came and took the body and buried it;
then they went and told Jesus.
Now when Jesus heard this,
he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.
But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.
When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said,
"This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late;
send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages
and buy food for themselves."
Jesus said to them,
"They need not go away; you give them something to eat."
They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."
And he said, "Bring them here to me."
Then Jesus ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven,
and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples,
and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
And all ate and were filled;
and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.
And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

Homily

Rev. Osy Nüesch

Hymn of Invitation *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

**Break thou the bread of life,
dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves
beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page
I seek thee, Lord.
My spirit pants for thee,
O living Word!**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord,
now unto me,
as thou didst bless the bread
by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease,
all fetters fall.
And I shall find my peace,
my all in all.**

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy....

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 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.

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

(Those present and those at home partake of the elements)

Prayer after Communion

Hymn *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,

chosen by you, to be counted your friends;

yours is the strength that sustains dedication,

ours a commitment we know never ends.

When, at your table, each time of returning,

vows are renewed and our courage restored:

may we increasingly glory in learning

all that it means to accept you as Lord.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Celebratio

Karl Jenkins
Sara Hoey, Organist