



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, September 20, 2020)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies

Felix Mendelssohn

Psalm 89

*I will sing of your steadfast love,
O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim
Your faithfulness to all generations.
Jane Kerr, Organist*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Rachel Jelsma, Liturgist

Please join me in the responsive Call to Worship:

Love the Lord your God,

**with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and
with all your mind!**

Love your neighbor as yourself,

**with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and
with all your mind!**

Do this and you will live.

Let us worship the Lord!

Opening Hymn: "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,

Who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.

And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:

They were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong;

And they followed the right, for Jesus sake, the whole of their good lives long.

And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:

And there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;

The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do God's will.

You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea:

For the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Call to Confession

The God who demands justice from us is the God who pours out mercy upon us. Trusting in that gracious love, let us confess our sin before God. Let us pray....

Prayer of Confession:

God of Mercy, I confess that I have failed to live as your beloved child. I have set my mind on the things of this world and have neglected the inheritance of love you bestow upon your saints. I have pursued selfish aims; harbored uncharitable thoughts toward my enemies and friends; avoided difficult responsibilities toward my neighbors. Forgive me, Lord. Free me from my selfish ways and strengthen me to be a Good Samaritan of Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ is merciful to all who turn to him in repentance.

In Christ, I am forgiven and restored to health and wholeness. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

O God, as I receive your Word through your Spirit, open my eyes to your justice, open my ears to your judgment, open my heart to your love. For the sake of Christ, I pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

A Reimagined Heart

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: "Would I Have Answered When You Called"

Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!" Would I at once have left behind both work and family?

Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?

Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee, on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?

Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew, where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?

O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways, nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.

I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!" You'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

Prayer of Dedication

Please join me as we pray together:

Generous God, as we give to you out of the abundance with which you have blessed us, make us alive with faith, alive with love, and alive with hope that we might answer your call to be Good Samaritans to our neighbors. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Benediction

Postlude: **Come! Live in the Light!**

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

*(Refrain) **We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. (Refrain)*

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Rachel Jelsma, liturgist, and Gene Kendall, technology
team