



Online Worship Resources (Sunday, July 26, 2020)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

PRAYER
Jane Kerr, Organist

Carl Reinecke

The Simple Path by Mother Teresa

*The fruit of silence is **Prayer.***

*The fruit of prayer is **Faith.***

*The fruit of faith is **Love.***

*The fruit of love is **Service.***

*The fruit of service is **Peace.***

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Please join me in the Call to Worship:

Sisters and brothers, we have been raised with Christ to new life:

freed from every fear,

granted every grace,

restored as Friends of God.

With songs of praise, let us worship the Lord!

Opening Hymn: **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.

Call to Confession

Men and women, there is joy in the presence of God every time we turn toward our home and remember whose we are. With open hearts and trusting in God's grace, let us name our sin before God. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Ever-faithful God, how often we turn away from you, yet you remain constant to us. We run from you, but you call us back. In our words and deeds we dishonor you, yet you still profess your love for us. We cut ourselves off from you and from others, but you will not let us go. Forgive our faithless and fickle ways and increase our gratitude, that we might grow in faithfulness to you, for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

As a parent watches for and welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who return in true repentance.

**Because of God's mercy and forgiveness, we are called friends of God.
Hallelujah! 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:

**God of Truth and Wisdom, we are grateful for inheriting the tradition of the Scriptures. By your Holy Spirit, speak to us through your Word, that we may know the love and grace of Jesus Christ, your living Word alive among us.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 18:16-33**

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ No, for I have chosen him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; so that the LORD may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

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

Sermon: Friend of God

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn After Sermon: **"Softly and Tenderly"**

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me,

See on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

REFRAIN: Come home, Come home! You who are weary come home.

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O Sinner, come home!

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. (REFRAIN)

Prayer of Dedication:

Please join me as we pray together:

We trust, O God, in your provision and loving-kindness. Use these gifts and our lives that we might bear fruit with praise and thanksgiving, sharing your grace and peace with all people. We ask this with confidence in your mercy and love. 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: God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
Refresh thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be
ever thine.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, Organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,

David Maley, piano, Steve Hoffman, liturgist,

Gene Kendall and Jon Jelsma,

technology team