



Sixth Sunday After Pentecost Traditional Service July 4, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Pastorale on "Forest Green"

arr. Richard Purvis

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and
heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening
skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present
has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the
chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had
died;
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary
feet
Come to the place for which our *fathers
sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears
has been watered;

#563

LIFT EVERY VOICE

We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we
stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright
star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our
silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on
the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into
the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of
the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we
forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native
land.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFSSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you came to us as one of us, to free all of us from the power of sin and death and open the way to eternal and abundant life with you. Through the Holy Spirit, you call us and form us together as the Body of Christ on earth today. Yet we often resist your call to true unity. We treat unity in Christ as an “optional extra” that can be discarded if it becomes too difficult. We use the concept of unity to silence those who have unpopular ideas or opinions. We confuse unity with everyone agreeing with us. Forgive us, Lord, and give us grace to pursue authentic unity in Christ, so that our life and ministry together may truly reflect Christ’s radical love in the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Psalm 133

Betsy Simpson

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“A Good Word: Unity”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#332

Live Into Hope

TRURO

1 Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!

2 Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear--
A vision of our God brought near.

3 Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.

4 Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH (from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that together we serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity; that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Ella Hanley (family friend of Judy Smullen)—Graduate of Bridgewater-Raritan High School (NJ); attending Northeastern University

Jakob Mette (son of Cristy Mette)—Graduate of Wilson Area High School (PA); attending Temple University

Sophia Pedroso—Graduate of Bridgewater-Raritan High School (NJ); attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amelia Zug (granddaughter of Phil Fair)—Graduate of McLean High School (VA); attending Brown University

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "My Lord, What a Morning"

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

*Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

As our Savior Christ has taught us, so now we pray:

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. Melva Wilson Costen

CLOSING HYMN

#561

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

AMERICA

1 My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

3 Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

4 Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary in D

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Sun Dance" from *Organ Dances*

Bob Chilcott

*The Philpotts are happy to celebrate Independence Day today
with Flowers under the cross.*

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