

A Day to Remember and Celebrate – 20 years later

September 11, 2021

Prelude – Lisa Broxterman

Welcome - Pastor Cindy Cone

P: Opening Prayer – O Almighty God, who brings good out of evil and turns even the children’s wrath towards the promise of peace: Hear our prayers this day as we remember those of many nations whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Hasten the time when the menace of war shall be removed. Cleanse both us and those perceived to be our enemies of all hatred and distrust. Pour out the spirit of peace on all the rulers of our world that we may be brought through strife to the lasting peace of the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C: Amen

Hymn – Gold 688 – The Star Spangled Banner

Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4 – Pastor Janelle Knowles

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Psalm 113 – Read responsively

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants; praise the name of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

⁸ **he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.**

⁹ He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD.

Hymn – Gold 690 – America, the Beautiful

Reading from Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn – Gold 692 – Battle Hymn of the Republic

Gospel Reading from Matthew 5:1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Solo – Terry Nanninga – God Bless America

Message – Pastor Cindy Cone

Hymn – Gold 693 – This Is My Country

Prayers – Read responsively – Father Jim Shaughnessy

P: With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Make us instruments of your peace.

P: For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you O Lord.

C: Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

P: For our enemies and those who wish us harm, especially those who are led to acts of terror; that in the aftermath of the destruction in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington on September 11th, 2001 we may grow ever more deeply in your spirit of justice and peace, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.

P: For all who believe in you, Lord Christ, and all whose faith is known to you alone, that they may be delivered from the darkness of fanaticism that arises from poverty and oppression, and from the pride that arises from wealth and comfort, and brought into your light, so that divisions that foster violence may cease, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is discord, let us sow union.

P: For those who have lost their faith in you Lord God, for those who continue to mourn those who died in the World Trade Center, the airplanes and the Pentagon, may your Church give comfort and hope in this time of remembrance, we pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

P: For all those whose spirit has been broken and whose lives have been irrevocably disrupted by the violence of that day and its aftermath, we offer our prayers along with the persecuted, the lonely, and the sick who have bid our prayers today, that they may be relieved and protected. We pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

P: For the ministry of all churches throughout the world, let the words of hope and love be heard. Let all those who hear, listen..for all those with tongues, speak..let there be love shown as we build and proclaim your words on earth. We pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is darkness, let us sow light.

P: For all who have perished in these years, for those we remember this day, for those who believed in your resurrection and those who knew not your promise of eternal life, in trust that they have been found by you and are at rest in your holy kingdom. We pray to you, O Lord.

C: Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

P: This day we also celebrate and hold dearly those who serve in our military, in our Fire and Police Departments, those who are our EMS responders, those who give medical care and response to our needs. Let us celebrate and hold them. We pray to you, O Lord.

C: Take heart in Christ we have been reconciled to God.

P: For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are reborn into eternal life.

C: Amen

Hymn – Gold 695 – My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Lord's Prayer –

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Benediction – Pastor Cindy Cone

Thank you to Father Jim Shaughnessy and Pastor Janelle Knowles for sharing in this event.

Pie and ice cream are for our sharing in the Fellowship Hall. Let us break bread together at this time.