

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for July 26, 2020

The Season After Pentecost

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

129Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130When your word is opened it gives light;

it gives understanding to the simple.

131I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

132Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as you always do to those who love your name.

133Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134Rescue me from those who oppress me,

and I will keep your commandments.

135Let your face shine upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

136My eyes shed streams of tears,

because people do not keep your teaching.

Psalm song: Keep Our Steps Steady by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Chorus: Keep your steps steady, in your promise, on the path (x2)

1. All of me is devoted head to toe to your word's unfolding light

All of us are heart open, simple things for your people's simple minds

Chorus

2. But our strength has been failing, looking in, looking out from streams of tears

All of us are awaiting golden light from your face to end our fears

Chorus

3. Holy One, we long for you, rescue us, may no sin disrupt our pace

Turn to us and have mercy, Guide our feet, Help your people walk your way

Chorus

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Gospel: Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

31[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

33He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Sermon

Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. *On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Guide the work of scientists and researchers, especially those seeking to find treatments, cures, and vaccines for Covid-19. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. We pray especially that you would grant wisdom to all who develop public policy, that they would make decisions and offer guidance to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick. We pray especially for those who are suffering from Covid-19, their loved ones, and those who are taking care of them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You lift up those who are struggling. Be with all people who are suffering from the economic consequences of the pandemic-- those who have lost jobs or reduced hours, those who struggle to make ends meet, and those who work in jobs that put them in harm's way. We also pray especially for everyone who is trying to figure out what school will look like in the fall-- teachers, school administration, parents, and lawmakers. Give us all guidance and wisdom in the midst of difficult choices. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In you our lives are never lost. We pray especially for the dying, that they would feel your presence even if no one else can be with them. We also pray especially for those mourning loved ones who have died during this pandemic, who did not get the funerals and memorial services they would have liked. Give us all your comfort, peace, and strength during this difficult time. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 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.

Song: Reckless Love by Cory Asbury

**Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me**

**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah**

**When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me**

**And oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine**

**And I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah**

**There's no shadow You won't light up Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me**

**There's no wall You won't kick down Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me**

4X

**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
And I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah**

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Dismissal

**Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!
And have fun doing it. We will! Amen!**

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