Back-To-School Sunday Sunday, August 22nd, 2021

Chimes

Greeting

L: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

P: Let us worship together, the young and the old.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*Invitation to Worship

L: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

P: Let us worship together, every generation.

L: After months of learning behind screens or separated by dividers and physical space,

P: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

L: We may still feel uncertain, seeing so many faces again, but we come together seeking God's peace in this beautiful community.

P: Let us worship together, united in Christ.

| *Opening Music | Come, Now Is the Time to Worship | W&S #3176 |
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*Opening Prayer (Unison)

God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, Thank you for the privilege of education. In a year of turmoil, disruption, and loss, we recognize the gift of learning and the gift of teaching in ways we may not have appreciated before. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each new class of young people. God who came as a child to show us how to be fully human, to show us how to be children of God, You have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle. You speak to us through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You call us to listen to the Spirit speaking through our young siblings in Christ. We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them. Amen

Special Music

Give Me Jesus Keith White, tenor arr. Moses Hogan

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Blessing the Backpacks and Lesson Plans

- DIscussion with Kids, Teachers, Administrators
- Blessing backpacks and lesson plans
- Litany Prayer of Congregation: "Loving God, hold us and our prayers."

| *Hymn Response | In Christ Alone | W&S #3105 |
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Sharing the Life of the Church

- Joys and Concerns

- Centering Song Breathe

W&S #3112

- Pastoral Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer

Offering

- Offertory Sentence: As God hears our prayers, knows our thoughts and feelings, cares for us beyond our understanding. We are every day made new in Christ. Let us give thanks for the gift of new life and emerging faith.
- Offertory Bring your gifts for Sherman Indian HS to the altar at this time.
- *Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

- Praise God the source of all our gifts!
- Praise Jesus Christ whose power up-lifts!
- Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- Offertory Prayer: Gracious God, as we bring to you our gifts and our selves, bless each with the opportunity to live into the new life which Christ has given us. Allow these gifts and our lives to be a blessing to those around us and especially those in need. Amen.

Blessing the Gifts for Sherman Indian HS

*Closing Hymn

Shine, Jesus, Shine

TFWS #2173

*Benediction





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Postlude