

PENTECOST 9 SUNDAY

July 25, 2021

Organ Prelude: Prelude in A major

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then Jesus said to the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
(Matthew 22:18-21)

We gather for worship to give to God our thanks and praise, and to open ourselves to a greater understanding of God’s love for us and call to us.

Made in God’s image, we gather to be reminded of who we are and whose we are. In a world driven by power and wealth, we come to steep ourselves in a different kind of commerce.

We gather to be reminded that the currency to we deal in daily is not about money or earnings, but about compassion and living as people created in God’s image.

All: Let us worship our God and Creator!

Hymn: God, who stretched the spangled heavens

No. 305

1. God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space: we, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you; great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

2. Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings row on row; yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below, where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow, lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.

3. We have conquered worlds undreamed
of since the childhood of our race:
known the ecstasy of winging
through uncharted realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.

4. As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance,
till our goals and yours are one.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "His eye is on the sparrow" words: Civilia Martin; music: Charles Gabriel;
arr. Mark Hayes

Soloist Christopher Tanaka-Mann with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:26-28, Matthew 22:15-22

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humankind in God's image,
in the image of God, God created them;
male and female God created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Matthew 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

WHAT CURRENCY DO YOU INVEST IN?

Rev. Rebecca

Special Music: "O God, beyond all praising"

words: Michael Perry; music: Gustav Holst

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "God, who's giving knows no ending"

No. 663

1. God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labour,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

3. Treasure too you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your Grace conferred:
Ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call.
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Fugue in A major

J. S. Bach

Thank you to Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, EliasTheocharidis, and Christopher Tanaka-Mann, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

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