

PENTECOST 21 SUNDAY, SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

October 17, 2021

Piano Prelude: Jesu, joy of man's desiring

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We live in a world of fierce rivalry, competition and comparison.

We often feel we have to prove ourselves, and only receive what we earn or deserve.

But we come to worship to experience another kind of relational dynamic.

We come here to learn something of love as a gift, freely and lavishly given out, with the only requirement being an open and receptive heart.

We call this grace and we commit our lives to being changed by grace, so we can give back to the world what is the best gift of all: genuine love from a heart being transformed.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

No. 434

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,

sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

5. For each perfect gift of thine,
to the earth so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

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.

Baptism of Catharine Mackinnon Ballard & Callum Joseph Yeretsian

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "Shall we gather at the river"

setting by John Carter

Scripture Readings: Genesis 4:1-15; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Genesis 4:1-15

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have produced a man with the help of the LORD.'² Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,⁴ and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.⁶ The LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?'¹⁰ And the LORD said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to

you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' ¹³Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.' ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, 'Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Amen.

Corinthians 12:1-10

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. Amen.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

COMPETITION AND GRACE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: "He shall feed His flock"

by G. F. Handel arr. B. Nasmith

Soloists Anna Bateman & Erin Stone

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: Now thank we all our God

No. 457

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms

has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. Oh may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

G. F. Handel

Thank you to Dr. Harris and Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Elias Theocharids, 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

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

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