

Pentecost 2 Sunday / Special Dedication June 19, 2022

Organ prelude: Spring from The Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to worship a God who is love.

But what does love mean in a world where many are excluded?

Many are excluded because of their race, their religion, their sexuality, the way they define and express their gender and many other reasons besides.

Many are excluded because they have made mistakes. They have sinned against God by hurting and abusing God's creation by their words and actions. Is there room for forgiveness in our pursuit of justice? Is there room to co-exist with those with whom we cannot agree or find common ground?

We come to worship to learn what "inclusion" means. We come to learn how to love by making others feel safe and welcome among us. We come to be inspired to make space for forgiveness and for difference.

Meet us in this hour of worship, O God. Expand our hearts, open our minds and move our spirits in our journey to learn to love as you are love.

Let us worship God together!

***Hymn: Lord, whose love**

No. 722

**1. Lord, whose love
through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:**

**we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.**

2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.

4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.

3. As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Special Music: My love colours outside the lines

Soloist Erin Stone

Gordon Light

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 56: 1-8, Matthew 19: 11-12, Acts 8: 26-39

Scripture reader: Michael Nettleton

Isaiah 56: 1-8

56 Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

² Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.

³ Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
‘The LORD will surely separate me from God’s people’;
and do not let the eunuch say,
‘I am just a dry tree.’

⁴ For thus says the LORD:
To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to the Holy One, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be God’s servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered. Amen.

Matthew 19: 11-12

11 Jesus said to them, ‘Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.’ Amen

Acts 8: 26-39

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. They had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and were returning home; seated in their chariot, and reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard them reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' 31 They replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And they invited Philip to get in and sit beside them. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that they were reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

34 The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to them the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' 38 They commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized them. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw them no more, and went on their way rejoicing. Amen.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

GOD'S LOVE INCLUDES EVERYONE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: And so it goes

Soloist Gretchen Helbig

Billy Joel

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: May the God of hope go with us every day** (*Sung three times*)

No. 726

**May the God of hope
go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love
and joy and peace.
May the God of justice
speed us on our way,**

**bringing light and hope
to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all.
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ postlude: Grand jeux

J Couperin

Special Dedication

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*