



Riverside Congregational Church

July 11, 2021

7th Sunday of Pentecost

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

**People: We have come to worship our God,
the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers,
and all that dwells within.**

Leader: The Lord of the Dance beckons us
to join in this time of celebration and joy...

**People: That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy
place.**

Call to Worship

Leader: We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

People: We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.

**All: Let us enter God's rhythm of life
and follow in the ways of the Word.**

God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!

Psalm 85

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those
who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his
glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and
peace will kiss each other.

Psalm 85

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are
freed:

Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.



Come and Find the Quiet Center

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows
the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being,
touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the
sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith
begun.



Come and Find the Quiet Center

In the spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for
heart to care,
In the spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.



Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:3-14

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6:14-59

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason, these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

Mark 6:14-59

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him.

Mark 6:14-59

When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.”

Mark 6:14-59

She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

Mark 6:14-59

Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.



Reflection

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you, al-le-lu
alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu alleluia.

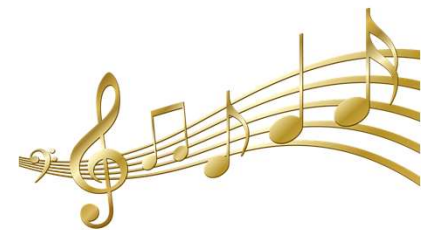
Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you, al-le-lu alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu alleluia.



Seek Ye First

You do not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God, al-le-lu alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu alleluia.





Pastoral Prayer

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The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those that 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.**

Rain Down

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, god of life.

Faithful and true is the word of our god.
All of god's works are so worth of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
Full of god's love is the earth.



Rain Down

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, god of life.

We who revere and find hope in our god
Live in the kindness and joy of god's wing.
God will protect us from darkness and death;
God will not leave us to starve.

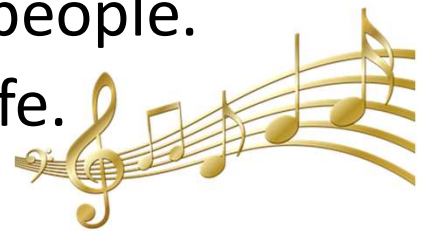


Rain Down

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, god of life.

God of creation, we long for your truth;
You are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
All of our hope lies in you.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, god of life.





Go forth into the world in faithfulness. Join all those who have danced with the Lord throughout the generations. Take the song and rhythm of God's Word into the world and invite others to celebrate the joy with you. AMEN