



Riverside Congregational Church

October 17, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship

One: We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

Many: But Jesus asks us: “Can you drink the cup that I drink?”

One: The cup of Jesus’ own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope. Fullness of life! We may come here to get close to Jesus,

Many: And Jesus asks us: “Can you be baptized with my baptism?”

Call to Worship

One: Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people and creates new relationships! We may come here for honor or fame,

Many: But Jesus challenges us: “To become great you must serve!”

One: Why are we here?

Many: To drink the cup of fullness of life. To immerse ourselves in Jesus’ struggle for justice and peace; To learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.

Prayer of Invocation

(Psalm 91:9-16; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c)

Holy Dwelling Place, Your tent is wide enough to provide shelter for all who seek you, food for all who hunger, and healing for all who suffer. Meet us here today, and fill us with confidence in your presence, that we may risk sharing Jesus' cup and his baptism so the world may become the place of love and justice you desire for all. Shelter us with your light and clothe us with your heavenly garments. Teach us how we may best serve ourselves and one another on this daring adventure. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

(Isaiah 53:4-12)

Divine Shepherd, like sheep we go our own ways. With our heads to the ground and our attention turned elsewhere, we often fail to heed the gentle nudge of your staff and your calls for home. With so many things to distract us—work, school, and the general busyness of life—we lie unresponsive to your calls to kin-dom service.

Words Of Assurance

Protector Jesus, you came among us in order to shelter us from the cold of night and forests of danger. In your presence, we are in green pastures! In you we are forgiven, and called once again to serve, and create with you a world of justice and peace for all.

Amen!

“Lord of All Hopefulness” (#469)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.



“Lord of All Hopefulness” (#469)

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.



Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

Hebrews 5:1-10

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Hebrews 5:1-10

Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.



Sermon:
"Leading with Experience"
Rev. Bob Nolan

Shout to the Lord (#91)

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like you
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship you



Shout to the Lord (#91)

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name
I sing for joy at the work of your hand
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand

Nothing compares to the promise I have
In You





Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory;

Forever and ever. Amen!

Take My Life and Let it Be (#466)

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my fee and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Always only for my King



Take My Life and Let it Be (#466)

Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages for thee;
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold,
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be,
Ever, only, all for Thee.
Ever, only, all for Thee





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again