



Riverside Congregational
Church

October 10, 2021

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship

One: The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

Many: We cannot hide for we are naked and laid bare to the one whom we must render an account.

Call to Worship

One: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I and yet was without sin.

**Many: We approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time
of need.**

Prayer of Invocation

O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world. Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly. There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime. May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have. May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us. Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and Holy One, we cannot begin to count all our possessions. We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements. We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years, and still we acquire more. We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart. We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need. But we, O God, need your forgiveness for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge. Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly so we can share our own abundance more equitably. Amen.

Words Of Assurance

One: We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.

Many: True comfort comes from God's love for us

One: And by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.

Many: By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

Wonderful Words of Life

Sing them over again to me,

Wonderful words of life;

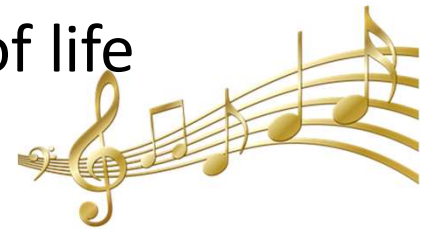
Let me more of their beauty see,

Wonderful words of life

Words of life and beauty,

Teach me faith and duty;

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life
(repeat)



Wonderful Words of Life

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all
Wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life.
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven;

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life
(repeat)



Wonderful Words of Life

Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life.

Jesus, only Savior, sanctifying for ever:

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life
(repeat)



Hebrews 4:12-16

The Prayer of Faith

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Hebrews 4:12-16

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



Sermon:
"A Place for Your Stuff"
Rev. Bob Nolan

There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.



There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all."



There Is a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.





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!

I Know that my Redeemer Lives

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What joy this blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head!

He lives to bless me with his love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.



I Know that my Redeemer Lives

He lives, all glory to his name!

He lives, my Savior, still the same;

What joy this blest assurance gives:

I know that my Redeemer lives!





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