OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY JULY 5

Opening Hymn 696 *"America the Beautiful"*

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be Nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the Years thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.

Welcome

Outdoor Worship Hymn: *"Surely the Presence of the Lord"* 2x

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Prayer & Prayer of Confession:

Lord of justice and mercy, we come to you this day seeking your healing and reconciling love. Help us to be open to your word, your presence, your compassion. Clear our hearts of those things which block your will. Keep us focused on your enabling power so that we, having been healed, may more fully serve you. Lord, sometimes we are confused. We hear the bad news continually shouted on TV, radio, in the newspapers, magazines. The whole world seems to be shrieking in pain. Innocent people are being destroyed by the whims of the wicked. Disease and pestilence reign supreme in too many parts of the world. We turn an indifferent ear to the cries of others, often because we are so overwhelmed by the needs and feel helpless in the face of such chaos. We close our eyes. We walk away, often crossing over to the side of self-importance and indifference because we are afraid to become involved. Our society is quick to sue and slow to heal. We succumb to those pressures in our fear. Help us, O Lord. Heal our spirits as well as our bodies. Open our hearts and our eyes to

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see you, O Christ, that we may be empowered to service rather than apathy. Forgive us, Lord, forgive us. Make us ready to truly become your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Old Testament Lesson Romans 7: 15-25A

Laurel Sutherin

Zechariah 9:9-12

9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

9:10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

9:11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

9:12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. Centering Hymn TFWS 2056 "God Is So Good"

Centering Hymn TFWS 2056 God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me!

God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me!

God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God's so good to me!

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me!

Prayers of the People

New Testament LessonMatthew 11: 16-19, 25-30Laurel Sutherin16 "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to
others:

¹⁷ "'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge,

and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

The Father Revealed in the Son

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Sermon

"Interdependence Day?"

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Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. And so,

With your people on earth And all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so,

in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Partaking of Communion

Closing Hymn 402 *"Lord, I Want to be a Christian"*Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart.

Refrain 1: In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart.

- Lord, I want to be more loving In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving In my heart.
 - *Refrain 2:* In my heart, in my heart;
 Lord, I want to be more loving
 In my heart.
- Lord, I want to be more holy In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy In my heart.
 - *Refrain 3:* In my heart, in my heart;
 Lord, I want to be more holy
 In my heart.
- Lord, I want to be like Jesus In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus In my heart.
 - *Refrain 4:* In my heart, in my heart;
 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
 In my heart.

Benediction