



OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
17th Sunday after Pentecost • September 27, 2020

## GATHERING

*Lover of the poor, we gather in the fullness of your compassion*

*Comforter of the sorrowful, we gather within the wings of your mercy*

*Defender of the meek, we gather because you see us and believe in us*

*Instigator of peacemaking, we gather to receive the right to be called children of God*

**Prelude**

Nick Carlson

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Mark Rambo

**Virtual Check-In**

## GATHERED & ENGAGED

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts,  
be acceptable in Your sight, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen!

Psalm 19:14

## Call to Worship

Autumn is a time of rejoicing in God's natural bounty and the ingathering of our lives.

*We gather to praise God for all we have received.*

Seasons turn but God's love is changeless.

*We praise God for this season of leaves dancing, crisp breezes, the stories of Jesus' activity in our world and the restless winds of the Spirit rushing through our lives - all of these assure us of God's faithful presence.*

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**Hymn**

*All Are Welcome*

by Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true.  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us;  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bears the image of God's face  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words with in the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Invocation**

Our Sovereign God, Light of lights, Word of words, Life of all living, Peace of perfect peace.  
We praise you and thank you for the faith we have, for the hope we can always rekindle,  
for the love we experience in creation, redemption, and the spirit which dwells in the vortex  
of the universe and the breath of every child. Bless and consecrate the worship we share this  
day that in it we may affirm the grace and wonder of our relationship with you. Amen.

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**The Written Word**

Psalm 78: 1–4, 12–16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and the might and the wonders that God has done.  
In the sight of their ancestors God worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.  
God divided the seas and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.  
In the daytime the people were led with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light.  
God split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.  
God made streams come out of the rock and cause waters to flow down like rivers.

**Mission Moment**

*Remembering What God Has Done*

**Song**

*His Mercy is More*

Darrell Born

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into the sea without bottom or shore;  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more; So much more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more; So much more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more; So much more. (3x)

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**The Written Word**

Matthew 21:23–32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say him, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We Do Not Know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

*“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later changed his mind and went. The father said to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “the first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”*

**The Spoken Word**

Introduction

Rev. Mark Rambo

**Song/Hymn**

*Worn*

David Nash

I'm tired, I'm worn, my heart is heavy; from the work it takes, to keep on breathing  
I've made mistakes, I've let my hope fail, my soul feels crushed by the weight of this world  
And I know that you can give me rest, so I cry out with all that I have left  
Let me see redemption win, let me know the struggle ends  
That you can mend a heart that's frail and torn  
I wanna know a song can rise, from the ashes of a broken life  
And all that's dead inside can be reborn; Cause I'm worn  
I know I need, to lift my eyes up, but I'm too weak, life just won't let up  
And I know that you can give me rest, so I cry out with all that I have left  
Let me see redemption win, let me know the struggle ends  
That you can mend a heart that's frail and torn  
I wanna know a song can rise, from the ashes of a broken life  
And all that's dead inside can be reborn; Cause I'm worn  
My prayers are wearing thin, yeah I'm worn, even before the day begins,  
Yeah I'm worn, I've lost my will to fight, I'm worn; so heaven come and flood my eyes  
Let me see redemption win, let me know the struggle ends  
That you can mend a heart that's frail and torn  
I wanna know a song can rise, from the ashes of a broken life  
And all that's dead inside can be reborn; Cause all that's dead inside will be reborn  
Though I'm worn...Yeah I'm worn.

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HEARING GOD'S WORD

**The Written Word**

Colossians 2:1–10

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of faith in Christ.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built upon him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe and not according to Christ. For in him, the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

**The Spoken Word**

*Roots*

Rev. Mark Rambo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Mark Rambo

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Hymn**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

#466

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; be Thou forever near me, my Master and my friend: I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.  
O let me feel Thee near me, the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw me nearer, and shield my soul from sin.  
O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee, that where Thou art in glory,  
There shall Thy servant be; and Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

**Weekly Challenge**

**Postlude**

Nick Carlson

**Benediction**

*Walk Humbly – Love Completely – Live Differently*