

Woodbury United Methodist Church

September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Helen Lemmel
Christopher Shay, keyboard

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*A STATEMENT OF FAITH led by Barbara Etcheto, Liturgist
from *Worship and Song: Worship Resources*

We are children of God.

We are water-washed and Spirit-filled.

We're dead to sin and alive in Christ.

We're done with the law, and live under grace.

Our hearts are set on righteousness.

Our minds are fixed on life and peace.

Suffering is nothing, compared to the glory to come.

For we're heirs to the life Christ is bringing.

We are children of God!

OPENING HYMN *The Lord Is My Hope* Patrick Loomis
Hymns sung by Vinita Chapman

OPENING PRAYER *For the Mind of Christ* based on Philippians 2:5-11
from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Let us remember Jesus:

Who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor and dwelt among us; who was content to be subject to his parents, the child of a poor couple's home; who lived for thirty years the common life, earning his living with his own hands and declining to humble tasks; whom the people heard gladly, for he understood their ways.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who was mighty in deed, healing the sick and the disordered, using for others the powers he would not invoke for himself; who refused to force people's allegiance; who was Master and Lord to his disciples, yet was among them as their companion and as one who served; whose desire was to do the will of God who sent him.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who loved people, yet retired from them to pray, rose a great while before day, watched through the night, stayed in the wilderness, went up onto a mountain, sought a garden; who, when he would help a tempted disciple, prayed for him; who prayed for the forgiveness of those who rejected him, and for the perfecting of those who received him; who observed the traditions, but defied convention when that did not serve the purposes of God; who hated the sins of pride and selfishness, of cruelty and impurity.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember Jesus:

Who believed in people and never despaired of them; who through all disappointment never lost heart; who disregarded his own comfort and convenience, and thought first of others' needs, and, though he suffered long, was always kind; who, when he was reviled, uttered no harsh word in return, and when he suffered, did not threaten retaliation; who humbled himself and carried obedience to the point of death, even death on the cross, wherefore God highly exalted him.

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Let us unite in a prayer that Christ may dwell in our hearts.

O Christ, our only Savior, so come to dwell in us that we may go forth with the light of your hope in our eyes, and with your faith and love in our hearts. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

led by Sherry Swanhall

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

led by Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Barbara Etcheto, Liturgist

SUNG PSALTER

Shepherd Me, O God
based on Psalm 23

Marty Haugen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Barbara Etcheto

Lessons for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost
From the *Revised Common Lectionary*

Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)
Do Not Judge Another

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord.

Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

Forgiveness

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

HYMN OF PREPARATION

We Have Been Told

David Hass

SERMON

We Are the Lord's

Rev. Thomason

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

You Are Near

Dan Schutte

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

POSTLUDE

The Butterfly Song

Brian Howard