**Order for Worship for 21st Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 25, 2020**

**Prelude**  “Scherzo in C Major” – Krebs  *Denise Isaac*

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship** *Matt. 22:37-40*

Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,and with all your soul,and with all your mind,and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.On these two commandments hang all of the law and the prophets.

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn # 401** “Here in This Place” *Marty Haugen, 1979*

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;   
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.   
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;   
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.   
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.   
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;   
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.   
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.   
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;   
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:   
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, now is the day.   
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;   
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation. We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously, profited at the losses of those near and distant, borne grudges, desired vengeance, and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing. We long to live in accord with your desire that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty will govern our hearts and minds, turning us toward lives of peace. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Readings from Holy Scripture**  Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Matthew 22:34-46

**Sermon**  “The Greatest Commandments”

**Affirmation of Faith** *from Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Q. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is:

to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul,

with all our strength, and with all our mind;

and our neighbor as ourselves.

**Hymn # 729** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” *African American spiritual*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.   
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.  
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.  
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.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory “Love One Another” *Amy Watt* Doxology Prayer of Dedication

**Lord, you have blessed the work of our hands, given us resources and talents to share in your service, entrusted us with gifts to share for the building up of your kingdom. We rejoice that you enlist us to participate in your care for all creation. We celebrate the work of your Spirit in us and in our world and through these gifts we give to you in faith and hope. Bless and use them in ways we may never see but can nonetheless trust. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn # 647** “Give Thanks”*Henry Smith, 1978*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say,

“We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!” (repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

**Charge and Blessing**

**Postlude “**Gavotte from French Suite No. 5 in G Major” - J. S. Bach *Amy Watt*

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Special music today is provided by Denise Isaac and Amy Watt. Thank you!

Notes on today’s Hymns from *Glory to God* (2013)

*The “you/your” mentioned in every stanza of “Here in This Place” is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.*

*Through its recurring phrase, “in my heart,” this poignant African American spiritual—“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”—expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.*

*Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, “Give Thanks” can easily be memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God’s goodness changes our perspective.*