

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."*

— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

PRELUDE

*"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* arr. A. P. Lockaby  
Heather Hamann, violin, Melissa Alexander, piano

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

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\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, O Lord, you made a decision to call forth life.

**All: We are the handiwork of your intention, the beauty you chose to create.**

One: Let us revel in today's creation!

**All: Let us lift up our voices to praise the Lord!**

One: For God has chosen us, and we are choosing life.

**All: May all of our choices this day be to the glory of God.**

One: Let us worship the living God today.

**All: May all the paths we walk be blessed.**

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1:15-18

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Our lives rush by us in a flurry of days. By the end of each we have made a thousand decisions in between. God, some of those choices were made in selfishness and shallowness. Some were made with indifference or anger. Forgive us for these. Give us your patience and wisdom to make better choices. By Your mercy, give us wisdom to discern the things that really matter, to disentangle right**

**from wrong, to negotiate competing goods and interests and concerns. We know we will not always make the best decision. Sometimes there are not even good choices, just bad and less bad. Forgive us when we fail you. Guide us to be people who make the better choices, the decisions that will lead to peace and relationship and justice.**

*(A time of silent confession)*

*Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In all of our choices, for better or worse, you still claim us, you still love us.

**All: We are reborn in your forgiveness, set free to face another day, to continue seeking the doing of your will in this world. Thanks be to you, O God!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE (As we pass the peace, let us not shake hands, but instead wave, use jazz hands, peace signs and other peaceful gestures.)

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you!**

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

*"Down to the River to Pray"* arr. MaryAnn Bleecker  
Amy Lehman, MaryAnn Bleecker, Melissa Alexander

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*“The Road Not Taken”*

Pastor Abbie Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive  
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For  
Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices  
with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who  
forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All: 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, hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

MUSICAL REFLECTION *“Be Thou My Vision”* arr. Joel K. Boyd  
Melissa Alexander, Piano, Heather Hamann, violin

Prayer after Communion

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *“Alleluia”* William Boyce  
Melissa Alexander, MaryAnn Bleeker, Amy Lehman, Heather Hamann

POSTLUDE *“Come All Christians Be Committed”*

\*All who are able please stand. \*\*\*Latecomers seat