

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. Louis, Missouri

secondchurch.net

The Order for Worship
11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020

Preparation for Worship

To your name, Lord Jesus, help me to bow the knee and all its worshiping, bow the head and all its thinking, bow the will and all its choosing, bow the heart and all its loving. Amen.

+ GATHER IN GOD'S NAME +

Prelude

Two Voluntaries

John Stanley

Welcome

Gathering Prayer

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ from the darkness of death. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn #435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal



which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

[Time for Silence and Reflection]

Declaration of Forgiveness

Let us hear and proclaim the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Passing of the Peace**

Peg Kaltenthaler and John Puterbaugh

+ **PROCLAIM THE WORD** +

Prayer for Illumination

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word.
Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Spirit of Mercy, Truth, and Love Herbert Arthur Chambers
Choir Section Leaders

Spirit of mercy, truth, and love, O shed Thine influence from above;
and still from age to age convey the wonders of this sacred day.
Spirit of mercy, truth, and love.

In every clime, by every tongue, be God's surpassing glory sung;
let all the listening earth be taught the acts our great Redeemer wrought.
Spirit of mercy, truth, and love.

Unfailing Comfort, Heavenly Guide, still o'er Thy holy church preside;
still let mankind Thy blessings prove, Spirit of mercy, Spirit of truth, and love.

Sermon

Carry the Promise

Rev. Travis B. Winckler

+ **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** +

Minute for Mission

Deborah Atkins and Jean Patterson

Call to Commitment and Offering

Offertory

Lord, Make Me a Channel of Peace

Alinda B. Couper
Jackie Davis and Lori Hoffman, duet

Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace
that where there is hatred I may bring love,
that where there is wrong I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
that where there are shadows, I may bring Thy light,
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
to love, than to be loved;

For it is by giving that one receives; it is by self-forgetting that one finds;
it is by forgiving that one is forgiven,
it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. Amen.

-Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

***Doxology**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

+ GO IN GOD'S NAME +

***Hymn #265**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Duke Street

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Thanks Be to Thee

George F. Handel

Today's Worship Participants

Pastor	Reverend Travis Winckler
Passing of the Peace	Peg Kaltenthaler and John Puterbaugh
Minute for Mission	Deborah Atkins and Jean Patterson
Choir Section Leaders	Derek Dahlke, Jackie Davis, Lori Hoffman
Organist	Andrew Peters
Passing of the Peace Videographer	Nancy Quigley
Music Videographer	Christine Peters
Minute of Mission Videographer	Andrew Peters
Worship Video Editor	Andrew Peters
Homebound Recordings	Mike Willock

Virtual Coffee Hour

Join Reverend Winckler today for virtual coffee hour at 12:00 noon over zoom. To participate, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81009341942?pwd=ZmpaZmt5bXQ1WmRYcVNNUnFkdGxIU T09>

The meeting ID is 810 0934 1942 and the password is 473437.

To call in on a telephone, dial 312-626-6799.

An article from Reverend Dr. Barbara Willock, Parish Associate for Worship

Table Grace: Mercy

Genesis 45:1-5 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

Without all the gory details, the lectionary has beamed us up from the sale of Joseph to nomads to #2 in all of Egypt and we are taken behind the curtain to witness one of the best family reunions of all times. Psalm 133 captures the joy and wonder of the moment, perhaps the happiest of all the psalms.

Paul, in Romans 9-11 is longing for this joy to be experienced by Jews and Gentiles in Christ, and offers himself as Exhibit A that such a transformation can happen. He ends with a joyful declaration of God's mercy ~ the mercy which is implicit in the Genesis and psalm readings. Karl Barth wrote of this passage, "What is sovereign, unsearchable and past tracing out in God is God's mercy and humans, whichever way they turn, are eventually subjected to it." [alt., *A Shorter Commentary on Romans*, p 145] Ponder that : We are *subjected* to God's mercy ~ whether we want to be or not. At the end of the day, it's God's choice, not ours. So there!

In some ways, the cry for mercy in the gospel reading comes within one of the most troubling portraits of Jesus in the Gospels. At the border [you name it : territorial, gender, ethnic, religious] Jesus is confronted by a woman in need with enough spine to vigorously seek what she needs. And Jesus literally does not say a word. However, conflating themselves with Jesus, the disciples use the same word they did when that pesky hungry crowd hung around past dinner time : "*Send her away. She's bothering us.*" when Jesus does speak, his words ~ especially in 2020 ~ sound and feel worse than his silence. And I am left with the interpretation given this episode by the first woman I heard preach it. This is the one place we see in the Gospels where Jesus is taught who he is and what he is about by another person ~ a person who is a foreign, non-Jewish woman. She receives the mercy she seeks and Jesus receives an expanded view of his ministry.

Mercy abounds in all of these texts. And it is this mercy that has create the Table for us to celebrate it. At the Table we experience the reality that leads to the joy of Psalm 133 ~ we share in the meal that unifies us with our kin, all our sisters and brothers in Jesus throughout time and space. At the Table we share the joy of Jesus revealed to us as the one who loves us and has been an instrument of God to secure our salvation. At the Table we see and experience that we, too, are *subjected* to the mercy of God, that the gift of our lives transformed by our baptism into Jesus has been given to us as pure gift that we neither asked for nor earned.

At the Table we know the promises of God are immutable and are there for us ~ we have only to take and eat. At the Table we are given the gift of new eyes to see others as God sees them and love them as God loves them. We are fed at the Table so that we may join Jesus in the world crossing borders, truly seeing and loving all God has made. At the Table we are given what we need to grow into the boundary-busting mission of Jesus.

Shalom,

Barbara
Parish Associate for Worship