



The LORD said
to Moses,
“I have seen
this people, how
stiff-necked
they are.”

Exodus 32:9, NRSV



October 11, 2020

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Church: (510) 793-6285

October 11, 2020
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . *“Now We Join in Celebration”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when clouds dull the sky,

All: help us to be still.

P: When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when the sun sets,

All: help us to be still.

P: When love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers the land,

All: help us to be still.

P: For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come to know that God is there,

All: suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us sing a new song.



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the darkest valley,

All: at the banquet table;

L: in the hard work of life,

All: at the moments of ease;

L: in our day-to-day reality,

All: at times set aside—

L: like this time, now—

All: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

L: with every step we take:

All: goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: God of grace, you invite us to a banquet, and we don't even respond. You set us a place at the table, but we find excuses not to come. You lovingly prepare for our arrival, yet we ignore your efforts.

All: Forgive us, God.

P: God of creation, you give us a world capable of abundance,

All: but we act as if it is a world of scarcity.

P: You give us the resources and the intelligence to provide for all, yet we lack the will and the vision to feed all of your children.

All: Forgive us, God, for filling our plates while others go hungry.

P: God of love, you call us to be the body of Christ in the world, but we hoard the blessings of communion for ourselves.

All: Instead of loving our neighbors, we are consumed by the love of self.

P: Instead of loving you, we bow before idols of our own making.

All: Forgive us, God.

P: God of hope, we avert our eyes when we see hunger and need;

All: we close our ears to the cries of the poor and the oppressed;

P: we refuse to let our minds be opened to the realities of our world; we refuse to let our hearts overflow with love, justice and compassion.

All: Forgive us, God.

Silence for Reflection

P: God of mercy, as you once again call us to your table, help us to respond in faith.

All: Forgive our failures and help us to learn from them.

P: Change our hearts and minds as we hear your good news proclaimed.

All: Help us to taste and see the goodness you have prepared for us, and for the world. Amen.

LITANY

L: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

All: We believe in the goodness of God. We believe God hears and responds to our needs. We believe God responds to all children everywhere.

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.

All: We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water. But we know that many do not have enough. Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.

L: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

All: Too many children do not see God's righteousness. Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear. Too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

All: To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious. Our hearts may be broken and our lives may be threatened. Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.

L: Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies; thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

All: Our steps may be small and timid. We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift. But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All: God is more relentless than war. God is more pervasive than hatred. God is more insistent than despair.

L: Amen.

All: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet.

All: Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways.

All: With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.



"The LORD is
my shepherd,
I shall not want."

Psalm 23:1, NRSV

FIRST READING . . . *Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear
no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING . . . *Exodus 32:1-14*

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped

it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: To you, O God, we offer our praise. For you, we offer our gifts.
With you, we offer our lives in service to the world.

All: Teach us to embody your word in action and service, that we may present ourselves as living sacrifices to you and your holy word.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Go now with your trust in the good shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us. And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death. May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life. And may the Holy Spirit abide in you and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.

All: **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE . . . *“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”*

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist & Lector: Steve Guerzon and Pamela Metcalf

Music: Leilani Camara and Dean Sieglaff

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema