



Children's Sabbath

October 18, 2020

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

October 18, 2020
20th 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 . . . *“This Little Light of Mine”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: Nurturing God, we come to you as children.

All: Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes,

P: hear one another with new hearts,

All: and treat one another in a new way.

P: We gather on this Children’s Sabbath Sunday to worship God who loves each and every child; in the name of Christ who welcomed the children when others would keep them away; moved by the Holy Spirit to seek justice and create community.

All: Come, let us worship God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

F3: Gather our hearts, O God,

All: knitting us together across difference and division to live with your compassion.

F3: Gather our minds, O God,

All: from distractions and distance to focus on you and your children.

F3: Gather our wills, O God,

All: to be strong and courageous in pursuit of your justice.

F3: By the power of your Holy Spirit,

All: make us one in heart, mind, and spirit as we worship you on this Children's Sabbath day. Come, let us worship God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: God of infinite possibility, we confess that too often we are stuck in what is rather than working toward what could be.

All: We doubt we can make a difference and so we just try to get through the day.

P: We become overwhelmed by pain, problems, and the pandemic, and want to hide our hearts, sit on our hands, wait for it to end.

All: Forgive us, O God, for living too little in the largeness of your love.

P: Fill us, we pray, with courage and compassion, vision and determination

All: to embody your love, seek your will, and strive for your justice that will enable all children to thrive and live with joy in the fullness of life that you intend.

Silence for Reflection

P: by the grace of God made known in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Amen.



FORGIVEN

LITANY . . . *by Marian Wright Edelman*

F1: Hear the cries of Your children who are ravaged by violence, poverty, racism and neglect,

All: scared, profiled, arrested, and imprisoned by those in authority

F1: ignored by those with power as they languish in crumbling schools and neighborhoods

All: labeled often by some entrusted with their education as dumb, disruptive, retarded, and failures

F1: marginalized by those who vote and are elected because they cannot make campaign contributions

All: resented by some of those forced to care for them in our often inhumane child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

F1: Hear our cries for our children, all-powerful God.

All: Fight their battles,

F1: turn the hearts and transform the actions of those who will not let our children escape the darkness of violence and drugs and poverty.

All: Open the Red Sea to their opportunity.

F1: Send them Your manna in the wilderness

All: and lead us and our children into the promised land.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

F2: Dear God, thank you for promising us that you will always be with us even during scary times. Thank you for reminding us that you are creating something new

All: Help us to keep using our imaginations to see a better world for all children. Thank you for our church on this Children's Sabbath that will be your partner in making our world better. Amen.

GATHERING . . . **WORD** . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

F2: Send us your Holy Spirit, O God,

All: as we hear your word read and proclaimed on this Children's Sabbath day.

F2: Don't let us settle for being settled,

All: comfortable with being comforted, set at ease with an easy word.

F2: Instead, we pray that your Spirit will surprise us with new insight,

All: help us see you where we least expect you, and move us to new responses. Amen.

FIRST READING . . . 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

SECOND READING . . . *Matthew 22:15-22*

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

F1: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Barbara Caine of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

F3: God of majesty, in your might you have created all things, and you entrust to our care what you have made.

All: Receive our offerings, and make them a sign of our dedication to provide for the needs of all people and creatures, in the name of the one who sustains all things by his word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

F1: O Source of Transformation, we turn our hearts to you on this Children's Sabbath. We pray for the Church, that we become an ever more true reflection of your welcome. Lead us in our witness to your justice. Teach us to be the embodiment of your love, especially for the youngest, impoverished, and most marginalized of your beloved children. Source of Transformation, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F2: Source of Compassion, we pray for the world, in which disease knows no boundary and suffering is a shared language. We ask that love will unite us in action that recognizes our common humanity. Give us your desire that all may live in the fullness of life. Source of Compassion, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F3: Source of Hope, we pray for our nation wounded by disease and death, division and distrust, pain and poverty, and so many uncertainties. Instill in us calm and trust in you that helps us reimagine our future with justice and joy for all children. Source of Hope, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F1: Source of Strength, on this Children's Sabbath weekend, we pray especially for the children and youth of our congregations and communities. We hold in our hearts those who struggle with disrupted learning, delayed plans, disappointment and loneliness. We pray for those whose families struggle to make ends meet. We pray that this weekend will inspire new, lasting action to work with our children toward your vision of justice and joy. Source of Strength, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F2: Source of Comfort, we pray for those who have died, especially those who died too young, too soon, from causes we could have prevented. We pray for those whose lives were lost to disease and despair, to brutality and bullying, to shootings and to suicide.

Help us to be your arms of care for those who grieve and your voice to prevent unnecessary losses. Source of Comfort, we pray:

All: Make our lives a living prayer.

F3: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

F3: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

F3: 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: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships

All: so that God may live deep within our heart.

P: May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,

All: so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

P: May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war,

All: so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

P: And may God bless you with enough audaciousness to believe that you can make a difference in the world,

All: So that we can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

DISMISSAL

F2: Remembering all of God's children, let us go in peace to love and serve God.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . *“Every Move I Make (The La-La Song)”*

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Homilist: Pastor Barbara of Holy Redeemer

Lay Liturgist Families:

F1 – The Harren Family

F2 – The Roper Family

F3 – The Wicke Family

Music: Leilani Camara;
Kathleen, Leah, and Michael Keating

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

