AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM Above, and comes down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17, NKJV

August 29, 2021

GATHERING WORD SENDING

Click here for a video of the service.

PRELUDE "Gather Us In" vs. 1,4

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

- P: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Blow through our lives
- All: with the breath of life.
- *P:* Blow through our church
- All: with the power of new dreams and visions.
- *P:* Blow through our world
- All: with the promise of hope, peace, and love.
- P: Work in us now,
- All: that we may be your new creation. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.
- All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.
- L: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:
- All: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.
- L: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.
- All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
- All: Amen.
- *P:* Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for Reflection

- P: God, our provider,
- All: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.
- *P:* Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.
- All: By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
- *P:* Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
- All: Amen.



LITANY ... by Bruce Prewer (Australian Prayers), alt.

- L: God, our Creator, it is good to be alive, to share life with each other in your wonderful creation:
- All: We are most grateful, and we thank you, God.
- L: You have given us the opportunity to see the fruits of the harvest, to watch trees in the wind, to inhale the fragrance of the seasons, and to feel the warmth of the air:
- All: We are most grateful, and we thank you, God.
- L: God, it is good to rest in the evening, and to rise in the morning, to walk upon this good earth, to hear your whisper in many places, and to sing your praise with many friends:

All: We are most grateful, and we thank you, God.

L: O Savior, like a generous friend you share the whole world with us, and you fill our cup to overflowing with the wine of gladness:

All: We are most grateful, and we thank you, God.

- L: We want to sing, dance, and pray, in gratitude for every good thing in your creation! Especially we want to embrace and express your Spirit; the Spirit that filled Jesus to overflowing, the Spirit of mercy, forgiveness, courage, and new life; the Spirit of love, laughter and peace:
- All: We are most grateful, and we thank you, God.
- L: For your presence with us, around us, beneath us, within us, behind us, and in front of us:
- All: we, your children, are most grateful, and we thank you, through Jesus Christ our Messiah.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.
- All: Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

- Reader: Abiding Spirit, may our hearts be opened to the mystery of the gospel,
- All: that the Creator of life may be made known to all. Amen.

READING ... James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

- All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.
- Reader: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the wellspring of our salvation.

All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.

Reader: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.

CHILDREN'S TIME ... Pastor Tim

HOMILY ... Pastor Tim

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

- L: When the Spirit flows through us, we are people of honesty and justice.
- All: When Christ works within us, we are disciples of mercy and compassion. Let us be agents of God's overflowing grace as we collect today's offering.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L: Compassionate Shepherd, accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude
- All: for the generous gifts you give us; gifts flowing from the eternal stream of your grace. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. God, in your mercy,
- All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. God, 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: God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

- L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation we choose:
- 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: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

- L: We conclude with the Dismissal: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE ""

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff Lay Liturgist/Reader: Neal and Rene Bierbaum Music: Leilani Camara Video Editing: Carmen Blair Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

