

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 20, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Have mercy on us, O God of Healing. We call out to you for ourselves, our community, and our world that has so much suffering. At times we are discouraged to name what we need, by society or family expectations that were uncomfortable with needs. So often we were simply never taught how to hold this part of us with tenderness and boundaries. But your Word invites us in to name what torments us and to receive your love and acceptance. Grant us your grace to take in the strength of your belonging. Amen.

PRELUDE Prelude on "Vox Dilecti" *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say Arr. Rex Koury*

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a "yes." A "yes" to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

All: A "yes" to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.

One: A "yes" to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

All: A "yes" to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you, O Heart-maker.

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God's table of plenty,

All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Amen.

HYMN There is a Wideness in God's Mercy #115

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Today, our scripture passage shows us the power of repentance. And how profound is it to see this embodied in Christ, who changed his perspective and actions because of an encounter with the force of mother advocating for her child and dignity.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

May we have the courage to admit when we've been wrong, the courage to ask for forgiveness, and the open heart to change our ways.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

What a blessing to experience transformation, to have it offered by our God who made us to grow and change. In times when we struggle to make the turns, we need in our lives, may God's grace and this community walk with us in the labyrinth of forgiveness.

Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

SPECIAL MUSIC Hymn Medley Handbells: Bob, Cindy, Ginny, Mary Anne, Jenny, and Sandy

The Word

SCRIPTURE Psalm 133:1-3; Matthew 15:21-28

SERMON "Yes."

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us and through us with abundance and flourishing. Give us generous hearts. May our offerings offer a testimony honoring your provision and giving glory to your name. Receive these gifts and magnify them for the needs of your creation. Amen.

HYMN Shine, Jesus, Shine! Words from Praise and Worship hymnal #142

vs. 1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me. Shine on me

Refrain Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

vs. 2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness; Refrain

Refrain Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE God Will Take Care of You W. Stillmen Martin Arr. By Robt. Thygeron



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