

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Carl Robinson is filling the Pulpit today.
Please welcome our Conference Minister

PRELUDE We Are One in the Spirit Arr. David Paxton

INTROIT I will Call Upon the Lord Composer: Michael O'Shields

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

All: Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

All: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

All: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.

HYMN – Gather Us In

Vs. 1 Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreaming's, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in —the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Vs. 2 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Lord, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, O Lord, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, Oh Lord. We ask your mercy on us. Amen!

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus has already paid for your transgressions, and we are free because Jesus Christ, our Savior, has made His grace accessible to us. People of God, your sins are forgiven.

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

ANTHEM – Bread of the World Composer: Stan Pethel

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

Matthew 21:28-32

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father^[a] went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you; the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but

the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON

"Thinking (and acting) like Christ."
Rev. Dr. Carl Robinson

Responding to the Word

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God who comes in humility be with you!

And also with you!

Beloved, lift your hardened hearts to God.

**We offer them to the One who will split them open
so grace can flow into the world.**

Children of God, sing to the One who turned the world upside down.

We open our mouths, praising God who shows us the way.

OFFERING

Invitation to Generosity

God, we open our hearts to give generous of the abundant blessings we have received from you. All that we have comes from you; therefore, we give our offerings and tithes in gratitude for all you have done for us.

Offertory How Majestic Is Your Name! by Michael W. Smith

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your goodness in our lives. Amen!

HYMN – "Are Ye Able?" Said the Master #470

Vs. 1. "Are ye able," said the Master,
"To be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"To the death we follow Thee."

Refrain:

Lord, we are able.
Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us,
Like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance
Above us shall be
A beacon to God,
To love, and loyalty.

Vs. 2. Are ye able to remember,
When a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy
Of a place in paradise? [Refrain]

Vs. 3 "Are ye able?" Still the Master
Whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits' answer
Now, as then, in Galilee. [Refrain]

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace arr. James Mansfield