

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world. Amen.

PRELUDE Change Our Hearts, O God Eddie Espinosa

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let our praise today be made new.

Many: May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.

One: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts

Many: From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.

One: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

Many: Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!

HYMN Come We That Love the Lord

Vs. 1 Come we that love the Lord,
 And let our joys be known.
 Join in a song with sweet accord,
 And thus surround the throne.

Vs.2 Let those refuse to sing
 Who never knew our God.
 But children of the heavenly King
 May speak their joys abroad.

Vs. 3 The hill of Zion yields
 A thousand sacred sweets
 Before we reach the heavenly fields
 Or walk the golden streets.

Vs. 4 Then let our songs abound,

And every tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Holy One, we confess that accountability can be discomfoting, and we avoid discomfort. We seek the good enough, convenient, and easy over the good, possible, and hard. Hold us accountable to the gospel. Hold us accountable to our claim and commitment to follow you. Hold us accountable to your will.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Help us to receive your grace and liberate us from shame in order to embrace accountability as a loving act of community.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, accountability from God is rooted in love, hope, and mercy. Know that your past actions and attitudes do not define your present nor limit your future. That all of life can be gift as we receive it and grow from it. Through God's grace, you can grow, learn, and thrive.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Roy Domoe The Love Divine. music by Hemingway Block and text by Mary Helen Brown

The Word

SCRIPTURE Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Special Music Roy Domoe The Love Divine. music by Hemingway Block and text by Mary Helen Brown

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you,^[a] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

SERMON

"Reconcile."

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts you give and allowing us to be gift givers as well. May our generous offerings bear fruit to nurture our community, our neighbors, and all creation. Amen.

Hymn We Are Called

Vs. 1 Come, live in the light.
 Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
 We are called to be light for the kingdom,
 To live in the freedom of the City of God.

Vs. 2 Come! Open your heart!
 Show your mercy to all those in fear!
 We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
 So hatred and violence will be no more

Ref. We are called to act with justice;
 We are called to love tenderly.
 We are called to serve one another,
 To walk humbly with God

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Gilbert Martin



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