

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Fellowship Hall + September 26, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Change My Heart, Oh God*

Mark Hayes

Opening Prayer

Leader: Family of faith, this must be the place.

This is the place for connection and growth, for community and hope.

This must be the place for questions like,

“Where are you from?” and, “What do you need?”

For whispers of: “I’ve been thinking of you,”

and, “I’ve been meaning to ask. . .”

This must be the place, because all belong here.

All are welcome here. All hurt and joy, needs and prayers, dreams and love, are welcome here.

God is near. Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Song *Only King Forever*

Verse 1 Our God and firm foundation, Our Rock the only solid ground

The nations rise and fall, Kingdoms once strong now shaken

We trust forever in Your name, The name of Jesus

We trust in the name of Jesus

Chorus You are the only King forever

Almighty God we lift You higher

You are the only King forever

Forevermore You are victorious

REPEAT CHORUS

Verse 2 Unmatched in all Your wisdom

In love and justice You will reign

And ev'ry knee will bow

We bring our expectations

Our hope is anchored in Your name

The name of Jesus

Oh we trust the name of Jesus

REPEAT CHORUS

We lift our banner high

We lift the name of Jesus

From age to age You reign

Your kingdom has no end **REPEAT**

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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All: Gracious God, sometimes life feels like cooking with flour—it looks like it should be easy, but we always make a mess. This is particularly true when it comes to our relationships. We so desperately long to say the right thing, to be the right thing, to find the right solution, that we overstep the line. Forgive us for assuming the place you fill. Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity, could possibly fix all the hurt in this world. Instead, give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones in their moments of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it. You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend. Teach us how to ask, “What do you need?” Teach us how to point to you. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the gospel: Every day is a new day for love. We are claimed by God. We are loved by God. We are invited in relationship with God and with each other. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God for growth and grace that knows no end. Amen.

The Children’s Message

Children 4th grade and younger are invited forward for the Children’s message. After the Children’s Message, children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One’s Worship.

Pass the Peace (Leader)

The Peace of Christ be with you!

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you! You are encouraged to pass the peace to neighbors by waves and/or air hugs. If you are worshipping with us online, we encourage you to text a friend and pass the peace.

Song (Sermon Series Intro) *A Covenant of Grace*

Verse 3 *We all need people, who will be, with us in solidarity*

No explanation, no defense, just ministry, of their precense

Scripture *Job 2:11-13*

When Job’s three friends heard about all this disaster that had happened to him, they came, each one from his home—Eliphaz from Teman, Bildad from Shuah, and Zophar from Naamah. They agreed to come so they could console and comfort him. ¹²When they looked up from a distance and didn’t recognize him, they wept loudly. Each one tore his garment and scattered dust above his head toward the sky. ¹³They sat with Job on the ground seven days and seven nights, not speaking a word to him, for they saw that he was in excruciating pain.

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Do your best to come to me quickly. ¹⁰Demas has fallen in love with the present world and has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark, and bring him with you. He has been a big help to me in the ministry. ¹²I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring along the coat I left with Carpus in Troas. Also bring the scrolls and especially the parchments. ¹⁴Alexander, the

craftsman who works with metal, has really hurt me. The Lord will pay him back for what he has done. ¹⁵ But watch out for him, because he opposes our teaching. ¹⁶ No one took my side at my first court hearing. Everyone deserted me. I hope that God doesn't hold it against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that the entire message would be preached through me and so all the nations could hear it. I was also rescued from the lion's mouth! ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil action and will save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and always. Amen.

Sermon *I've Been Meaning to Ask . . . What Do You Need?*

Song *The Stand*

Verse 1 You stood before creation, Eternity in Your hand
You spoke the earth into motion, My soul now to stand

Verse 2 You stood before my failure
And carried the cross for my shame
My sin weighed upon Your shoulders, My soul now to stand

Pre-Chorus So what can I say, And what can I do
But offer this heart O God, Completely to You,

Verse 3 So I'll walk upon salvation
Your Spirit alive in me
My life to declare Your promise
My soul now to stand

REPEAT PRE-CHORUS

Chorus So I'll stand
With arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the One who gave it all
I'll stand

My soul Lord to You surrendered
All I am is Yours

REPEAT CHORUS

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Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray...**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call for Offering

Offertory Song *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Benediction

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you. In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself, go in peace.

Postlude *Only King Forever*

Music The Praise Band

The Leader of New Stone Gathering Amy Bowman

Director of Children's Ministry Todd Bowman

Worship Leader The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr. is on medical leave through October 31. He will resume full work hours on November 1.

The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas will be out of the office starting Monday, September 27 and will return to worship next Sunday. The Rev. Ron Obenchain will be available for pastoral care and emergencies.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP TIMES *Sunday, October 3*

World Communion Sunday

8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall | 11 AM in Sanctuary

Sunday School at 9:45 AM

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Please review the following: Regardless of vaccination status, all must be masked for all indoor public gatherings within the church's buildings. Worship leadership and song leaders may remove their masks when speaking or singing. Persons with COVID-19 symptoms or who have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms in the past two weeks are asked to remain home and worship virtually.

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