

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Fellowship Hall + October 3, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Here I Am, Lord*

Opening Prayer

Leader: Friends, let us pray: If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper, with the hope of connecting, with the hope of glimpsing God, and if all of those things take place, and your spirit is moved, and you swear God is near, and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith, and then the service comes to an end, and it's time for you to leave, and you ask yourself, "Where do we go from here?" Then I would say to you, "Go out into the world to love and to share and to learn, but come back soon, because this is the beginning. This is only the beginning. So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here." Let us worship Holy God. Amen.

Opening Song *Let Your Kingdom Come*

Verse 1 Your glorious cause O God, Engages our hearts

May Jesus Christ be known, Wherever we are
We ask not for ourselves, But for Your renown
The cross has saved us so we pray, Your kingdom come

Chorus Let Your kingdom come, Let Your will be done

So that ev'ryone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth
Till Your sov'reign work on earth is done, Let Your kingdom come

Verse 2 Give us Your strength O God, And courage to speak
Perform Your wondrous deeds, Through those who are weak
Lord use us as You want, Whatever the test
By grace we'll preach Your Gospel till, Our dying breath

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Call to Confession

Leader: One thing I love about the prayer of confession is it allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and there is beauty in that. You don't have to be perfect here. You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to have a five step plan for what's next here. You just have to show up with your messy, beautiful self, and be honest. So friends, let us be honest. Let us pray the prayer of confession together—

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, We are naturals when it comes to stalling out. We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall. We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher. Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter. Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection. Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here. With hope and honesty we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends- we are all works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God. No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God is with us on the mountain top and God is with us on the plateau. Know you are loved, claimed, and forgiven by God. 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 4 *Surprised by God's unbounded love, From many walks of life we come,
To build a covenant of grace, And in our differences embrace*



Scripture *Ruth 1:1-22; Acts 10*

Sermon *I've Been Meaning to Ask . . . Where Do We Go From Here?*

Song *For Everyone Born*

Verse 1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 2 For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, **REFRAIN**

Verse 3 For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, **REFRAIN**

Verse 5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, **REFRAIN**

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Call for Offering

Friends, our giving is a way of saying thank you to God. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present words in prayers and songs, we present a portion of a fruit of our work to God, our money. May we respond by giving generously to the work of God in this community.

Offertory Song *For The One*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.**

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

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 *Let Your Kingdom Come*

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.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP TIMES *Sunday, October 10*

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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