

# Bulletin

November 15, 2020    24th Sunday after Pentecost (on-line worship service)  
Pledge Sunday

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

### VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader:     The Peace of Christ be with you.

People:     And also with you.

PRELUDE                    “*Let All Things Their Creator Bless*”     setting by Alfred V. Fedak

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sophie Augustine

This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

**This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.**

This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

**This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.**

This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

**This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!**

Thom Shuman *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven*

### HYMN

**“We Praise You, O God”**

#612

Music: *Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clank*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.

***We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.***

***We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.***

***We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.***

***When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,  
and with you help, O Lord, our struggles we win.***

***With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!***

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sophie Augustine

Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation and commissioned us to carry out your work to the best of our ability. But we have not served you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We withhold our gifts and live in fear. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Make us bold to use our talents for the sale of your kingdom, until you come in glory.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### ***"I Love to Tell the Story"***

#462

Music: William G. Fischer, 1869

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1866; ref. William G. Fischer, 1869

Vocalists: Chris and Donald Wertman

***I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.***

*Refrain*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

***I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.***

*Refrain*

***I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.***

*Refrain*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ellyn Colquhoun

We call on your name, O God, for you have offered us the cup of salvation and welcomed us into your family. How can we thank you for the love you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Meet us again in this hour, that we may grow in faith and be responsive to your truth. Fill us with hope, renewing our confidence to face life in faithful trust and obedience. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **Isaiah 43:1-2, 4a**

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

## **Matthew 25:14-30**

### **The Parable of the Talents**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### **RESPONSE**

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks be to God.  
(Deut. 6:6)

### **SERMON**

### **MORNING PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN**

***“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”***

#716

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958  
Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.

© 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.***

***Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.***

***Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.***

***Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.***

***Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.***

***Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.***

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

***“We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator”***

Setting by Healey Willan