

September 27, 2020 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (on-line worship service)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE *"Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 556"* Johann Sebastian Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Komara

O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

HYMN

"Morning Has Broken"

#664

Music: Arrangement © 1987 by CRC Publications, Grand Rapids, MI 49560

Text: © David Higham Assoc., Ltd.

Vocal trio: George Fairfax, Rev. Deb Lind, Colleen VanAllan

Accompanist: Rev. Deb Lind

*Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing,
fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dew fall, on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness,
where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation! Praise every morning, God's recreation
of the new day!*

*Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing,
fresh from the Word!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elizabeth Komara

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

"Gavotte in G Major"

George Frideric Handel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Cottrell

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 136

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

who struck Egypt through their firstborn,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who divided the Red Sea in two,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

for his steadfast love endures for ever;
but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who led his people through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who struck down great kings,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and killed famous kings,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
Sihon, king of the Amorites,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and Og, king of Bashan,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and gave their land as a heritage,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
a heritage to his servant Israel,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Philippians 1: 1-10

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE Philippians

Salutation

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am

confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,

RESPONSE

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

SERMON

"Grateful!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

"My Life Flows On"
("How Can I Keep From Singing?")
Music and text: Robert Lowry, 1869

#821

***My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm shall shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
No storm shall shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
No storm shall shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

***The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
No storm shall shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

DISSOLUTION OF A PASTORAL CALL

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,
be present, Lord.

In this congregation,
be present, Lord.

In this community,
be present, Lord.

In this presbytery and the whole church,
be present, Lord.

In the homes and hearts of all your people,
be present, Lord.

*Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:
For work begun but not completed,
Lord, have mercy.*

*For expectations not met,
Lord, have mercy.*

*For wounds not healed,
Lord, have mercy.*

*For gifts not shared,
Lord, have mercy.*

*For promises not kept,
Lord, have mercy.*

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:
For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,
thanks be to God.

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept,
thanks be to God.

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God, which has sustained us,
thanks be to God.

Do you, the members and friends of The Presbyterian Church in Geneva, release
Rev. Deborah Lind-Schmitz from service as your pastor?
We do with thanks to God.

Do you, Rev. Lind-Schmitz, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

I do with thanks to God.

Let us pray:

Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

Rev. Deb Lind, soloist

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Ludwig van Beethoven

Adapted by Edward Hodges

Introduction by Gordon Young