

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- God is. We are. In spite of our fumbles and because of God's grace, we are not daunted by the troubles of this age, nor are we fearful of what is to come. We do not bless God for our wealth, our health or for our feeble wisdom. We bless God that God is, that we are and that his promise and love shall be with us when time itself shall be no more. Peter Gomes
- Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. Max Lucado

Call to Worship:

One: We come into the presence of the holy God,

All: Who may not be grasped,

One: But may be gazed upon;

All: Who is not easily understood,

One: But is full of understanding;

All: Who does not come at our beck and call,

One: But who is always near.

All: We gather as God's children

One: In confident assurance that God is here.

Song: More Love, More Power (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

God of tender grace and soft-spoken words, help us to seek you out. We have wandered far, searching for truth. We have explored sights and experiences that thrilled but did not satisfy. We have sought the newest things in hopes of quenching our longings.

Remind us, O faithful God, that our home is in you. Wherever you go, help us to follow. Help us to sit and be renewed by your presence. Amen.

Song: Jesus Calls O'er the Tumult (music at end of bulletin)

The Lessons:

Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Message: "Looking for God for All the Wrong Reasons"

Message Response: Sole Desire (music at end of bulletin)

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out:

Leader: Great God of love and glory, it has been a strengthening and affirming experience to reconsider who you are, and to discover again that our experience of you in our lives is limited only by our faith and vision. Open our eyes to see you. And having seen you, may we never lose sight of you - now, today, this week or ever - until you in your grace and mercy bring us together again.

Amen.

The Sending Song: When It's All Been Said and Done (music at end of bulletin)

The Dismissal

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



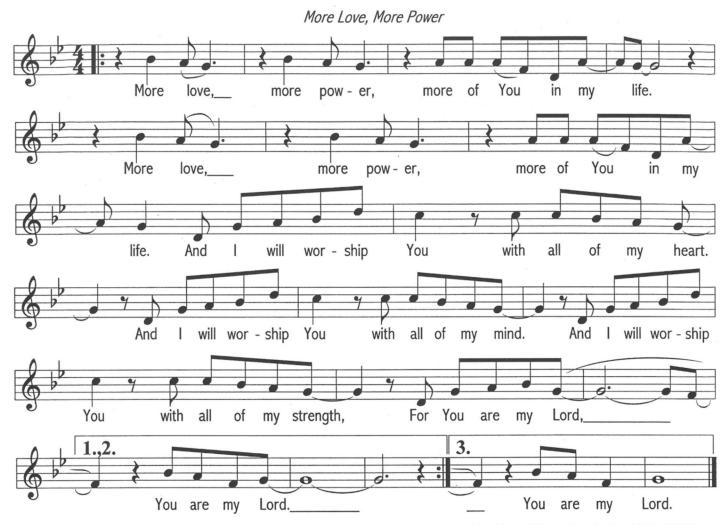
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