



JULY 26, 2020

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING PRAYER:

O God,

We gather in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.

May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil.

May they take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord.

Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG: *God Is Still Speaking* (music at end of bulletin)

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- *“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King*
- *“There is no power greater for change than a community discovering what it cares about.” – Margaret Wheatley*
- *“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”
– Vincent Van Gogh*
- *“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” – Mother Teresa*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God who never gives up on us, who is always working to plant the seeds of love and new life:

All: **Open our minds to the truth of your care.**

One: Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

All: Open our lips to share stories of faith.

One: Open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.

All: Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit.

One: Show us that as precious as is the smallest seed, it is nothing unless we take it in hand and plant it.

All: We promise to pay attention to the tiniest seeds of hope in our relationships. We vow to do our part in giving them a chance to sprout.

One: Help us keep ourselves open to see and share the surprises of the Kingdom of God.

KYRIE: “Kyrie Eleison” – Response 2 (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

Leader: God of the mustard seed and a few grains of yeast, we succumb to thinking greedily about quantity when even the smallest bit used in faith yields a fine result. Remind us to live wholeheartedly by treasuring what we have. Remind us to use what is available with faith and a clear mission so we might experience realm your kingdom.

(Silence for reflection)

Leader: We recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

Leader 2: We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives become parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we always remain connected to you in all times and places. Strengthen our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously, to bear the fruits of your kingdom: your love, grace, mercy, and true undying life. Amen.

BLESSING/ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: The God of love, forgiveness and the opportunity to change does not condemn you for your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Creator, and of the Savior, and the Sustainer. God offers you the strength to grow and to bear fruit in your lives on this day and eternally.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *This Little Light of Mine*

THE LESSONS:

Romans 8: 31-39

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Matthew 13: 31-33

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough."

MESSAGE: *"What You Do Matters"*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Dream Small*

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 :

God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. **Amen.**

God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace. **Amen.**

God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SENDING SONG: Something Beautiful for God (music at end of bulletin)

...a continuation of *Footprints in the Sand*, as written by author Yaholo:

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there were strange holes, mounds, and trenches. He couldn't even make out one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there are strange holes, mounds, and trenches. I don't even see any footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

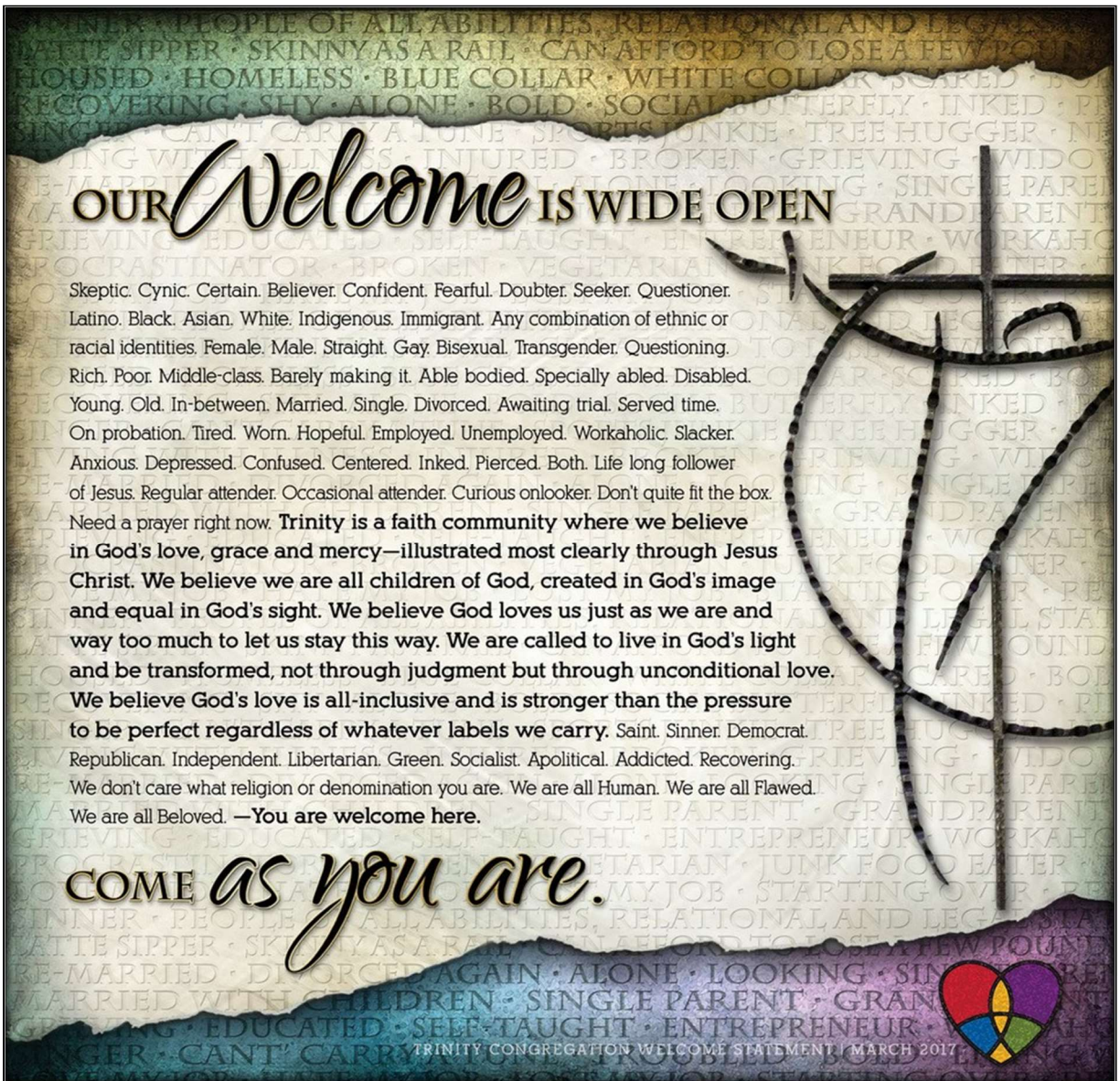
The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you no longer see footprints, it was then that I dragged you, kicking and screaming."

"But LORD," the man said, *"that is most of my life."*

The LORD replied: *"Yup."*





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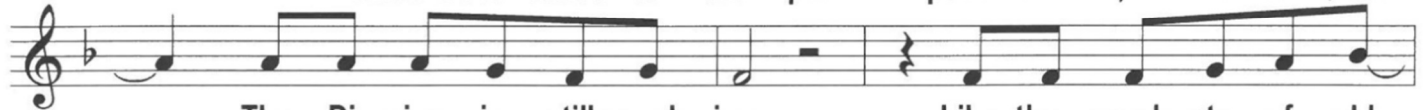
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God is Still Speaking ... Summoned to Serve



Like the proph - ets of old we are still be - ing called.
Like dis - ci - ples of old we are still be - ing sent
When we're called to the pur - pose of God, we can trust



The Di - vine is still speak - ing. Like the proph - ets of old
in - to fields of God's har - vest. Har - vest time is up - on
God will guide and sus - tain us. There's a pro - mise that tells



we are of - ten a - fraid to ac - cept what we hear.
us but there are too few who are will - ing to work,
us that all things are work - ing to - geth - er for good.



Time has come to be bold and to set fear a - side;
and as Je - sus once told his dis - ci - ples, this world
As we serve may we al - so be hum - ble e - nough



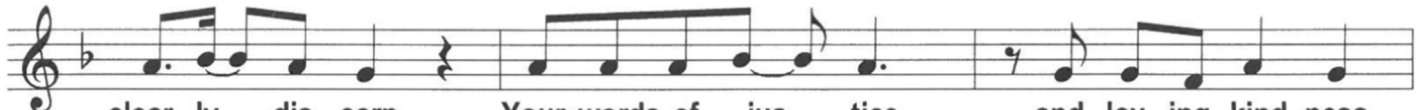
so we pray now for cour - age to re - spond to the call,
will not al - ways re - ceive us. Still we la - bor in love,
to ad - mit when we fal - ter. May we strug - gle to be



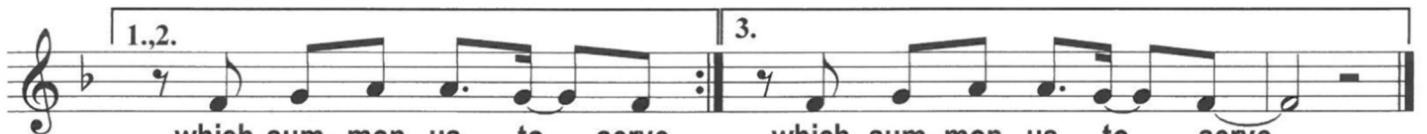
glad - ly risk - ing it all, trust - ing God will pro - vide.
love that's trans - form - ing us as it's chang - ing this world.
o - pen and lis - ten - ing as we dare to pro - claim:



God is still speak - ing fresh words of life, O Spir - it help us to



clear - ly dis - cern Your words of jus - tice and lov - ing kind - ness,



which sum - mon us to serve. which sum - mon us to serve.

Kyrie Eleison

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: Kyr-i-e E-lei-son on our world and on our way. Kyr-i-e E-lei-son ev'-ry day That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the hun-gry and the poor; that we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord!

Words and Music by Larry Olosn Copyright 1989 Dakota Road Music CCLI License #23071

Something Beautiful for God

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign and a triplet of eighth notes.

1. Know this one thing a - bove all else.
2. Ev' - ry - one who we meet to - day
3. Je - sus will vis - it us to - day

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

We are loved, loved by God. Let this be how we
is God's child, God's own child. May our lives help them
in dis - guise, in dis - guise. Poor and weak, Christ will

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

see our - selves, as peo - ple loved, loved by God. And
hear God say, "You are my child, God's own child." A
come our way, - Je - sus Christ in dis - guise. The

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

once we know the love of Christ; feel God's heal - ing
smile can ra - di - ate God's love. Let them see the
lone - ly poor, the vic - tim - ized, love for them is

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

in our lives, lov - ing our ser - vice is
Christ in us. Let our lives - vice be the
love for Christ. Love is wa - ter to

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

how we give our love back to God. To -
cheer - ful - ness of of God Christ in this world! To -
quench the thirst of of Christ on the cross. To -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God! Do some - thing small, but

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

do it with great love. Do what we can, where we are

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 4/4 time signature.

with what we've got. To - day, let us do some - thing

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 2/4 time signature. It includes first and second endings and a 'D.S. al Coda' instruction.

beau - ti - ful for God. God! To -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 2/4 time signature. It includes a 'Coda' instruction.

beau - ti - ful for God, to - day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God, to -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of one flat, and 2/4 time signature. It includes a triplet of eighth notes.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God!