



SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

Liberating God,  
you set us free from our loneliness by the touch of another's hand;  
you deliver us from our selfishness, so we may serve others;  
you break the chains of our pride, that we might humbly walk with you.

Christ of Love,  
when we would cling to our anger, you send us forgiveness to hold our hand;  
when we would feast on our bitterness, you share the bread of heaven;  
when we would drink at sin's fountain, you pour out the cup of salvation.

Spirit of New Life,  
you bring us together that we might learn to live together,  
to love together, to serve together,  
so that those around us would know you are in our midst.

### **PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

- *“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes--all the time! It must be that way, for God's glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, **we** get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, **God** gets the glory. God wants to reveal Godself to a watching world.” – Henry T. Blackaby*
- *“God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls and coal into diamonds by using time and pressure. God is at work in the world, in history and in you too.” –Anonymous*

**PRAISE SONG:** *Here I Am, Lord (music at end of bulletin)*

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Tongues of fire

People: **Set our hearts ablaze with love.**

Leader: Tongues of fire

**People:** Kindle our passion for justice and beauty.

Leader: Mighty winds

**People:** Blow the timidness from our words and our deeds.

Leader: Mighty winds

**People:** Send us along the paths of peace and reconciliation.

Leader: Wind and fire

**People:** Make us alive and surprise us with the depths of love and the heights of joy.

### ***OUR CONFESSION PRAYER;***

**All: Eternal God: We plead guilty to those most basic sins, self-centeredness and pride. We often confuse that which is good and right, with that which is good FOR US. We pretend that we can get along without You despite our failings and struggles that are ever before us. Personal pride prevents us from seeking help when we need it because we are afraid to appear vulnerable.**

**As a nation we hoard, abuse and destroy. We have become accustomed to greedily consuming far more than “enough”, far more than “our share.” Our pride of nation causes us to consider other nations mainly as markets or shortsightedly to label them as “enemy” or “ally.” Pride of race has stained the pages of history with war, the horror of slavery and demeaning racial discrimination.**

**Forgive us, merciful Father, and help us daily in our ongoing struggles; for the sake of your world and for the sake of our gracious Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***BLESSING/ASSURANCE OF PARDON:***

Leader: God is love and rejoices when we live in that love for ourselves and for others. Receive God’s forgiveness, grace and power to live in eternal love.

***CONFESSION RESPONSE: Beauty for Brokenness v. 1, 2 & 5***  
*(music at end of bulletin)*

### ***THE LESSON: Genesis 37:1-28 (The Message)***

<sup>2</sup>This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. <sup>3</sup>Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. <sup>4</sup>But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

<sup>5</sup>Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Listen to this dream that I dreamed. <sup>7</sup>There we were, binding

sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.”<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.<sup>9</sup> He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”<sup>10</sup> But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?”<sup>11</sup> So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

<sup>12</sup>Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem.<sup>13</sup> And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “Here I am.”<sup>14</sup> So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem,<sup>15</sup> and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?”<sup>16</sup> “I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.”<sup>17</sup> The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.<sup>18</sup> They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.<sup>19</sup> They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer.<sup>20</sup> Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”<sup>21</sup> But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.”<sup>22</sup> Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him” —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

<sup>23</sup>So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore;<sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.<sup>25</sup> Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.<sup>26</sup> Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?<sup>27</sup> Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed.<sup>28</sup> When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**MESSAGE:** “*God at Work*”

**MESSAGE RESPONSE:** *God of the Movements and Martyrs*  
(*music at end of bulletin*)

**THE PRAYERS**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE SENDING OUT:

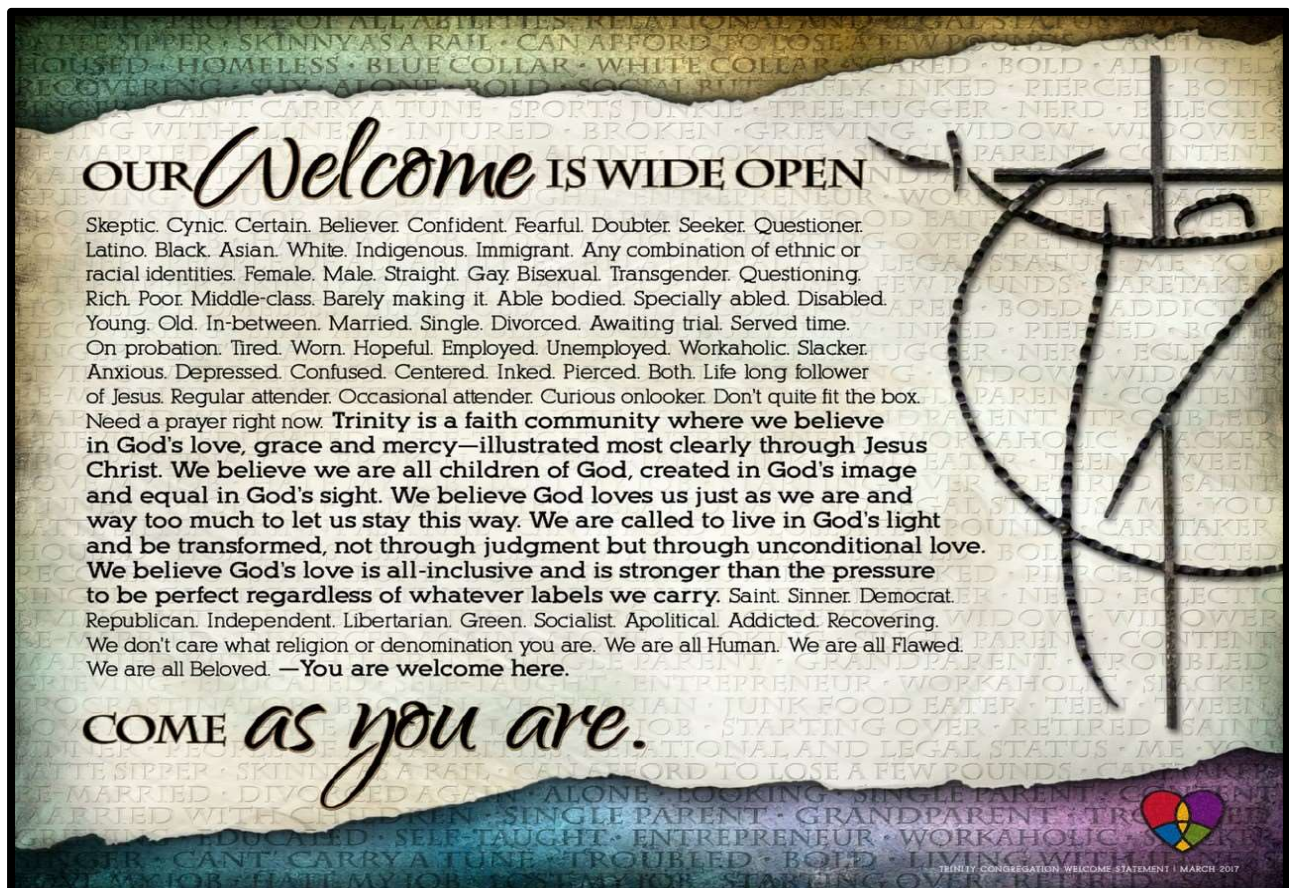
Leader: We are sent forth from this place to be light, hope, and strength to others, that others may know that there is indeed a way through the challenges of life to a safe haven and to a peace grounded in the assurance of God's love. May we forget ourselves long enough and thoroughly enough to be this kind of witness to our neighbor. Always and ever in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**THE SENDING SONG:** *All the People Said Amen (music at end of bulletin)*

## THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



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### Here I Am, Lord

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

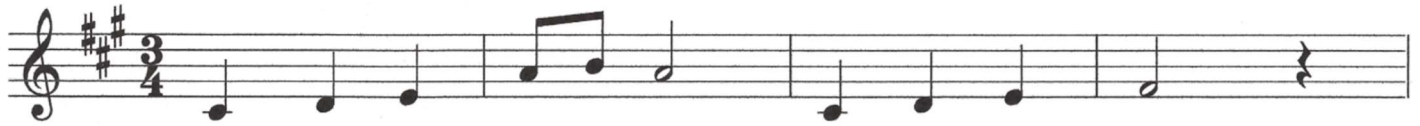
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

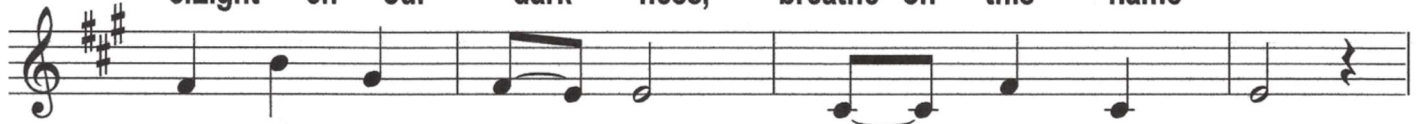
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?" Here I  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you  
call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you  
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

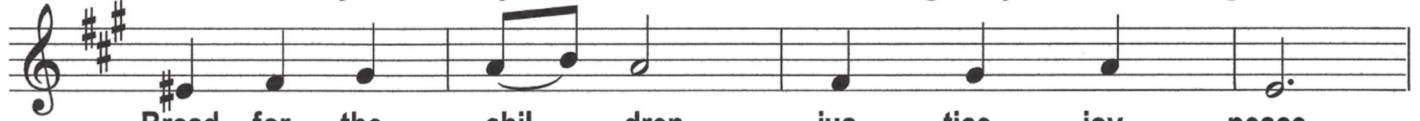
Beauty for Brokenness Verses, 1, 2 and 5



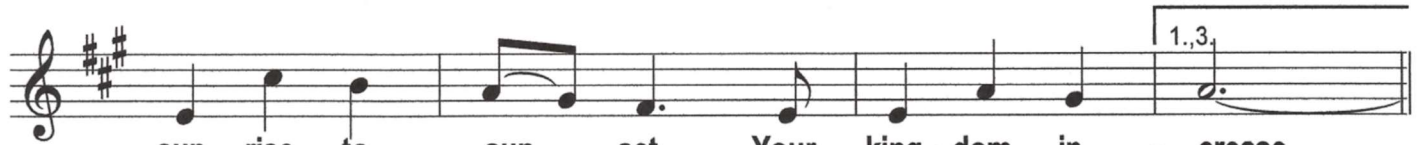
1. Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair;  
 2. Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills,  
 3. Ref - uge from cru - el wars, ha - vens from fear,  
 4. Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams,  
 5. Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame



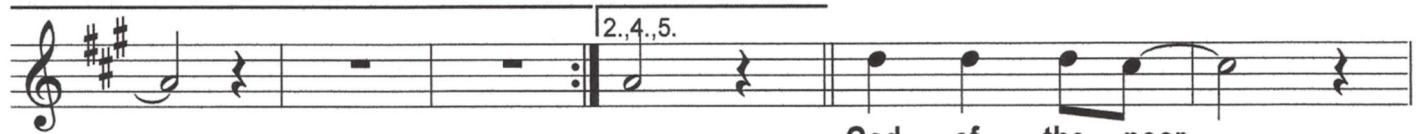
Lord, in Your suff - ring world, this is our prayer.  
 work for the crafts - men, trade for their skills,  
 cit - ies for sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share.  
 plun - dered and poi - soned, our fu - ture our dreams.  
 un - til your jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain,



Bread for the chil - dren, jus - tice, joy, peace,  
 land for the dis - pos - sessed. Rights for earth the weak,  
 Peace to the kill - ing fields, scorched earth to green.  
 Lord end our mad - ness, care - less - ness, greed,  
 un - til the na - tions learn of your ways,



sun - rise to sun - set, Your king - dom in - crease \_\_\_\_\_  
 voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't \_\_\_\_\_  
 Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His cross for the pain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 make us con - tent with the things that we  
 seek your sal - va - tion and bring you their



God of the poor,

speak.

need.  
 praise.



friend of the weak, give us com - pas - sion we pray. Melt our cold



hearts, let tears fall like rain. Come change our love



from a spark to a flame.

God of the Movements and Martyrs

1. God of the move-ments and mar-tyrs, God of the pow-er-less  
 2. Now it's our turn to do jus-tice, hum-bly we rise to the  
 3. God of the cir-cle that holds us, God of the ones pushed a-

child, God of the hurt and the hope-less and un-rec-on-  
 day, give us the strength and the wis-dom to walk in your  
 way, we will reach out to our neigh-bors, in your name we'll

ciled, - God of the just and the faith-ful,  
 way. - Gath-er the loaves and the fish-es,  
 say: No mat-ter your creed or your coun-try, no

God of the night and the day, - God of the whole of cre-  
 share un-til all have been fed, - walk in com-pas-sion and  
 mat-ter the hue of your skin, your age, who you love, or the

a-tion, in your name we pray; -  
 mer-cy, by love we'll be led, -  
 bod-y your soul was born in, no

Man-y have fol-lowed the sav-ior -  
 stand-ing in cir-cles sur-round-ing,  
 mat-ter the plac-es you're bro-ken, no

in-to the face of the storm, - strength-ened by long gen-er-  
 all hold-ing hands while we pray, when pow-ers bear down on the  
 mat-ter the things you have done, - lay down that weight on the

a-tions, by love they were formed. In base-ments of tall stee-pled  
 help-less, we'll stand in the way. - God of the worn and the  
 al-tar, a new day's be-gun. - You are a child of the

church-es, in shad-ows of fenc-es and walls, in  
 wound-ed, - let us be healed by the truth, when  
 mak-er, - you are be-lov-ed and known, -

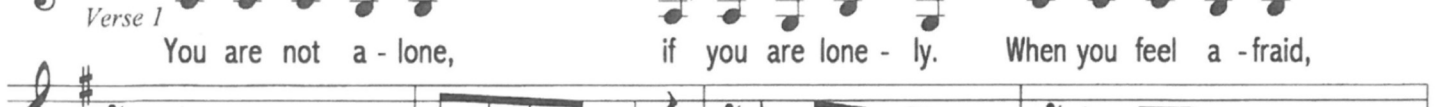
al-leys and hall-ways of pow-er, they an-swered your call.  
 door-ways are blocked, we will low-er our friends through the roof.  
 join us in work of the kin-dom, we wel-come you home. *(Repeat last line v.3)*

All the People Said Amen


*Verse 1*



You are not a - lone, if you are lone - ly. When you feel a - fraid,




You're not the on - ly. We are all the same in need of mer - cy, to be for - giv - en and be

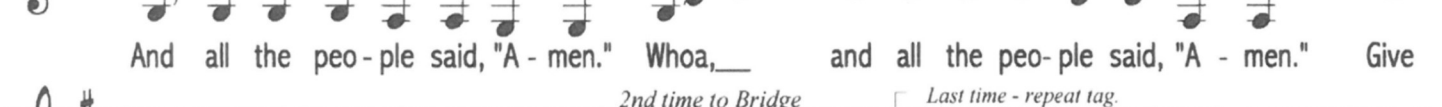


free. It's all you got to lean on, but, thank God it's all you need.

*Chorus*



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa, and all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Give



thanks to the Lord, for His love ne - ver ends. And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

*2nd time to Bridge* *Last time - repeat tag.*

*Verse 2*



If you're rich or poor; well, it don't mat - ter. Weak or strong, love is what we're af - ter.




We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. God knows we stum - ble and fall,

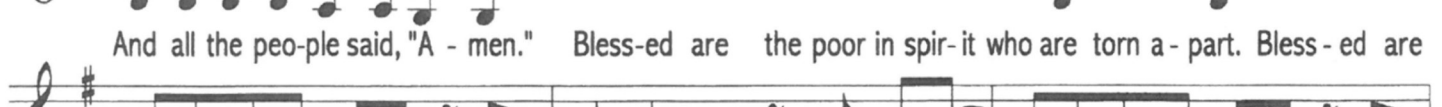


and He so loved the world He sent His Son to save us all. *Repeat chorus*

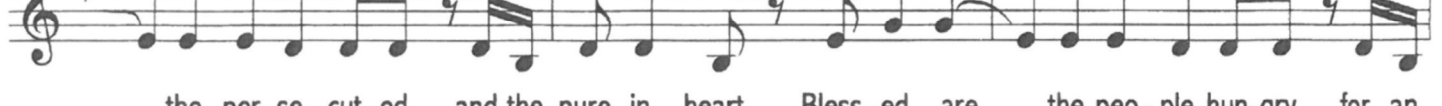
*Bridge*



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless - ed are



the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless - ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an



-oth - er start, for theirs is the King - dom, the King - dom of God. *Repeat chorus 2X*