



SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

14TH 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:

- *Faith without love breeds fanaticism; faith with love breeds peacemaking.*
-Hans Kung
- *Sometimes being kind is more important than being right. Sometimes we need not a brilliant mind that speaks but a patient heart that listens. Not keen eyes that always see faults but open arms that accept. Not a finger that points out mistakes but gentle hands that lead.* - Unknown
- *Confidence comes from not always being "right", but not fearing to be wrong.*
- Peter T. McIntyre

PRAISE SONG: *I Believe in That Love (music at end of bulletin)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The work of our hands,

All: Our labor of care.

One: Our open hand,

All: Our tender embrace,

One: Our voice used for the voiceless.

All: Our power used for the powerless.

One: Loving God,

All: By loving the world,

One: Caring for ALL people,

All: Especially the poor, the young, the forgotten and those treated unjustly.

One: We serve God not by being right,

All: But by being loving.

One: By this they will know we are your disciples.

All: May our love glorify our Savior.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

All: Holy God, when Jesus knew he was about to be crucified, he left his disciples with one command: Love one another as I have loved you. We confess to you and before one another that we have sinned. We know you are love and that we were created out of that love, and yet we often act in very unloving ways. You show us grace and continually work to bring us to wholeness, and yet we turn on others and harm them with our words and actions. Instead of love, our hearts harbor self-righteousness, resentment, self-sufficiency and envy. We wish to be better than others rather than one with them. You know our hearts, and you know the many ways we violate your command to love. Forgive us for how often and how far we fall short. Call us back to your love, and empower us with your Spirit to act in love as you act in love. 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 grace and power to live in eternal love.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified
(music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS:

Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are

summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Matthew 20:15-20

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ “Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

MESSAGE: *“Being Loving Versus Being Right”*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Send Down the Fire (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: Hear this command: Love one another. God has given you the most powerful tool in the world: Love. Use it, increase it, and proclaim it. May God free you to obey and touch all those around you with God’s love, grace and hope.

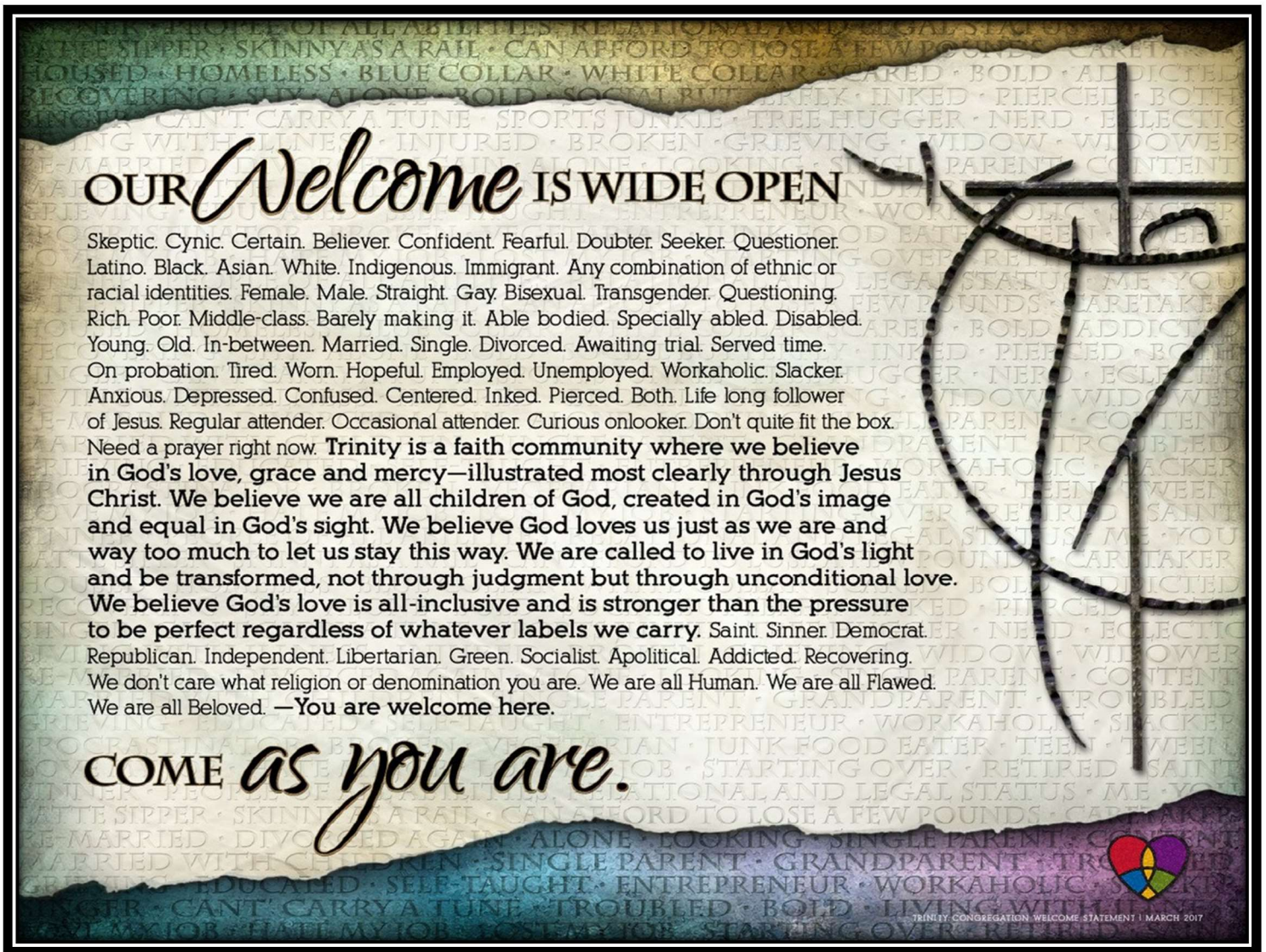
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *You Set Us Free (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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I Believe In That Love

1. I be - lieve in a love that is born in the song of a
2. I be - lieve in a love that is felt in the touch of a
3. I be - lieve in a love that is here at the heart of a
ba - by's cry. I be - lieve in a love that lives
help - ing hand. I be - lieve in a love that sees
my - ster - y. I be - lieve in a love that for -
on and on e - ven when we die.
diff' - renc - es and seeks to un - der - stand.
gives, for - gets heals and sets us free.
I be - lieve in a love that reach - es out em -
I be - lieve in a love that has no bounds, no
I be - lieve in a love that los - es self for the
brac - ing all our pain and doubt. I be -
class or race to hold it down.
sake of life for some - one else.
lieve in that love, I be - lieve I be - lieve in that love.
I be - lieve in that love. I be
- lieve I be - lieve in that love.

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

1. In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied.
2. In Your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied,
In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
In Your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

SEND DOWN THE FIRE

Refrain

Send down the fire of your jus - tice,
 Send down the rains of your love; Come,
 send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and
 we shall be peo - ple of God.

Verses

1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
 2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
 3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
 4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,

Teach us the song of your love; Give us
 Teach us the way of your peace; Give us
 Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us
 Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your

hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us
 hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us
 right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us
 ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er

ring with the song of your love.
 walk in the way of your peace.
 burn with the fire of your truth.
 shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

D.C.

You Set Us Free

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'You Set Us Free'. It consists of eight staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythmic pattern of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'In the dark - ness, you bring light. In our blind - ness, In our thirst, you sat - is - fy. In our loss, our Gift of hope, a liv - ing faith. Gift of peace, for you give sight. In our strug - gles you give life. tears you dry. In our pain, you hear our cry. ev' - ry place. Gift of love for ev' - ry race. For our debts, you paid the price. You set us free to Through the cross, you pur - i - fy. Je - sus is our sav - ing grace. love al - ways. Your love has set us free. You set us free. You call us to be. Your love has set us free to be your hands, to change the world, to work for jus - tice and peace. You set us free. Your love has set us free. You set us free. Your love has set us free.' The score ends with a double bar line.

In the dark - ness, you bring light. In our blind - ness,
In our thirst, you sat - is - fy. In our loss, our
Gift of hope, a liv - ing faith. Gift of peace, for

you give sight. In our strug - gles you give life.
tears you dry. In our pain, you hear our cry.
ev' - ry place. Gift of love for ev' - ry race.

For our debts, you paid the price. You set us free to
Through the cross, you pur - i - fy.
Je - sus is our sav - ing grace.

love al - ways. Your love has set us free. You set us free. You
call us to be. Your love has set us free to be your hands, to
change the world, to work for jus - tice and peace. You set us free. Your love has
set us free. You set us free. Your love has set us free.