



OCTOBER 4, 2020

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastoral Welcome

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ Apart from God every activity is merely a passing whiff of insignificance.
- Alfred North Whitehead
- ❖ Things that are not eternal are already out-of-date. - C.S. Lewis
- ❖ Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others. - St. Augustine

Call to Worship:

One: All around us, the universe sings of God's creative love.

All: We gather as God's people, seeking that love no one else can offer

One: Every day, the sun bears witness to God's hope;
every night, the stars whisper of God's peace.

**All: We gather as God's people,
needing peace in a warring world,
searching for hope in the midst of despair.**

One: The breath of the wind carries God's grace;
the mountains echo the glory of God.

**All: We gather as God's people,
from north and south,
from east and west,
to sit at the joyful feast.**

Song: The Earth and Everything (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

**C: Laid stone upon stone, we are crushed by the weight of our sin.
You give us everything we need to live, yet like greedy children we
gorge ourselves because we do not trust you.**

We hoard, we bully, we try to take charge over everything and everyone in our path.

We ask that you put to death all of our wretched schemes and give us hearts to love you alone.

Silence for prayer

P: I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. You are free to live with new and generous hearts.

C: Amen.

Song: Only If We Learn to Share (music at end of bulletin)

The Lessons:

Isaiah 5:1-7 (The Message)

¹⁻² I'll sing a ballad to the one I love, a love ballad about his vineyard:
The one I love had a vineyard, a fine, well-placed vineyard.
He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds, and planted the very best vines.
He built a lookout, built a winepress, a vineyard to be proud of.
He looked for a vintage yield of grapes, but for all his pains he got junk grapes.

³⁻⁴ "Now listen to what I'm telling you, you who live in Jerusalem and Judah.
What do you think is going on between me and my vineyard?
Can you think of anything I could have done to my vineyard that I didn't do?
When I expected good grapes, why did I get bitter grapes?"

⁵⁻⁶ "Well now, let me tell you what I'll do to my vineyard:
I'll tear down its fence and let it go to ruin.
I'll knock down the gate and let it be trampled.
I'll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for—
thistles and thorns will take over.
I'll give orders to the clouds: 'Don't rain on that vineyard, ever!'"

⁷ Do you get it? The vineyard of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is the country of Israel.
All the men and women of Judah are the garden he was so proud of.
He looked for a crop of justice and saw them murdering each other.
He looked for a harvest of righteousness and heard only the moans of victims.

Philippians 3:3-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Message: “Yours, Mine and God’s”

Message Response: We Give Thee But Thine Own (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: Blessed is our God who abundantly provides and is the giver of all good things. Blessed are those whom God has chosen and brought into God's house to dwell with God. Blessed are those to whom God sends us forth to share God's love and truth and life. Give thanks to the Lord for God is good. Live so others will join in the song of thanksgiving!

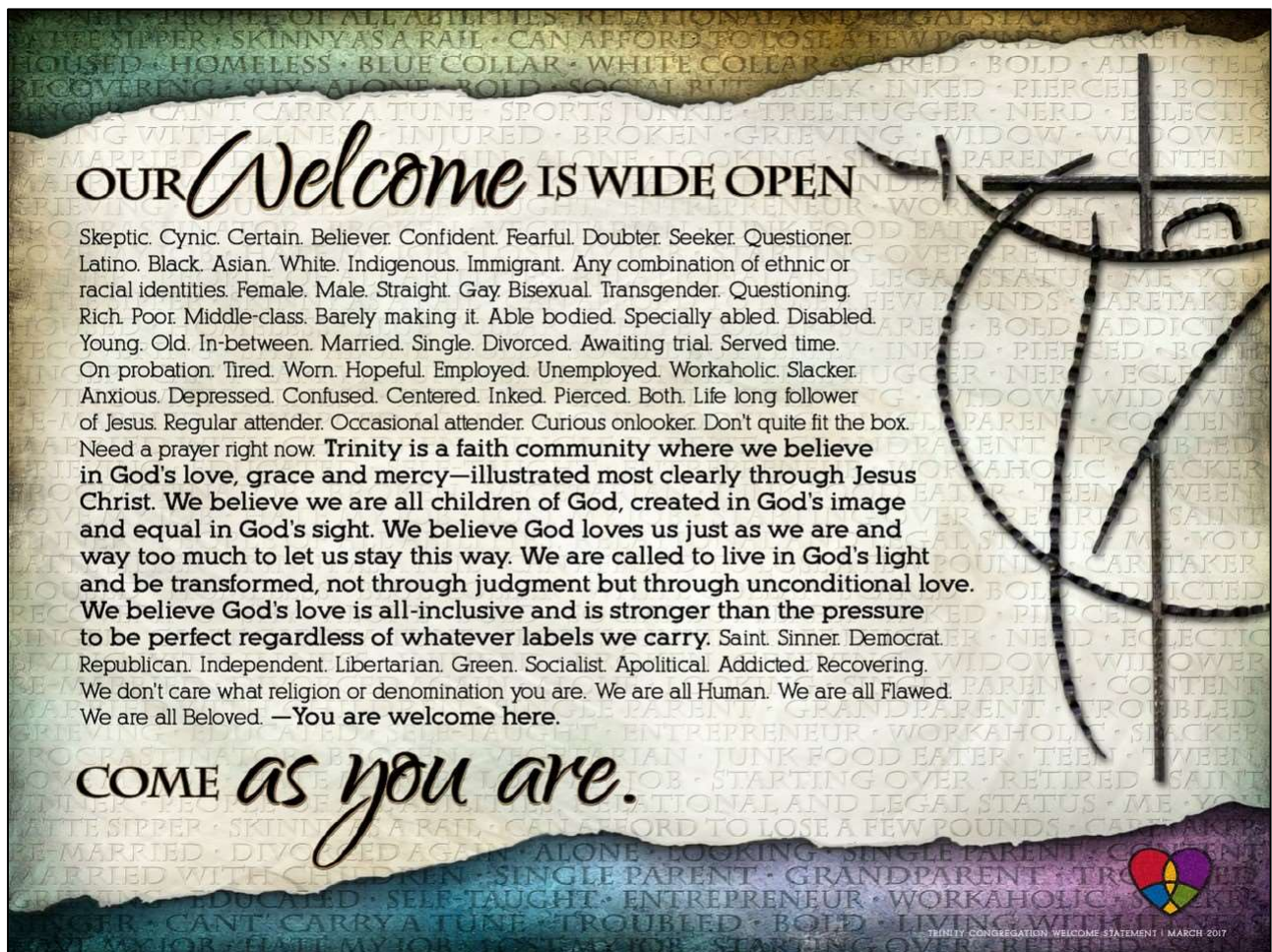
Amen.

The Sending Song: Take My Life, That I May Be (music at end of bulletin)

The Dismissal:

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



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The Earth and Everything

The musical score is written for a single voice on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the staff. The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning and a 'Fine' marking at the end. The lyrics are: 'The earth and ev'-ry thing that lives in it, the earth and ev'-ry thing that lives in it, be - longs to the Lord. Who are those that trul - ly love their God is pres - ent in our midst; lift your If ev - 'ry - thing be - longs to God, all the God faith - ful - ly? It is they with hearts and hearts look up and see; We are his work, and through our peo - ple, all the land; can we a - gree to work to - hands who do God's will joy - ful - ly. The lives God's love and glo - ry we will be. The geth - er, one an - oth - er un - der - stand? That the

Only If We Learn To Share

There is plen-ty of food on this beau-ti-ful earth, -
 There are too ma-ny peo-ple go-ing hun-gry to-day, and
 plen-ty of wa-ter and plen-ty of air. There's e-nough for us all, but there's
 somehave so much that they just throw it a-way. There's e-nough for us all, but there's
 on-ly one way: On-ly if we learn to share.
 on-ly one way: On-ly if we learn to share.
 God, we pray, o-pen up oureyes. God, wøpray, teach us how to care.
 God, we pray, o pen up our hearts. Teach us what it means to share. share.
 Teach us what it means to share. Teach us what it means to share.

686

We Give Thee but Thine Own

1 We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re-ceive,
 3 The cap-tive to re-lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be-lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:
 all that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un-to thee.

ELW 583 Take My Life, That I May Be

Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
let them flow in cease - less praise.

1. Take my hands and let them move
2. Take my sil - ver and let gold,
3. Take my voice and let me sing
4. Take my will and make it thine;

at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I for thy with - hold;
al - ways, on be - ly no long - er King;
it shall be mine;

take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips, and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

beau - ti - ful thou for thee choose. (Chorus)
mes - sag - es roy - al throne. (Chorus)
be thy roy - al throne. (Chorus)