



NOVEMBER 8, 2020

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING PRAYER:

Be aware of what is moving through your mind. Ask God to prepare you to be open to new insights and inspirations.

I come to You, O God, to be prepared for what I will face this week and in the uncertain future. You know what thoughts fill my mind, what worries trouble me, and what challenges I face. Grant me the faith I need and the assurance of Your help. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- “We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon.”
— Jimmy Carter
- “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” - Benjamin Franklin

PRAISE SONG: *God Says It's Time (music at end of bulletin)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: God is coming among us today and always.

People: We want to be ready to meet our God.

Leader: God has given us Jesus to prepare us.

People: We will follow Jesus and prepare for God's reign.

Leader: God wants all creation to be prepared.

People: We will share God's grace and bounty with all.

ALL: O God who is creating our world anew through us: Grant us the wisdom to see your day coming and to prepare by doing your work; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

Leader: Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our failure to prepare for God's coming again.

People: We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We make all kinds of preparations for all kinds of events. Already the stores are calling us to prepare for spending lots of money for Christmas presents and decorations. We are urged to prepare for school, to prepare for work, to prepare for retirement. We try to heed all of these calls, but we fail to hear you calling us to prepare for the reign you are bringing to our world. We prepare for the things that are passing away and fail to prepare for that which is eternal. Forgive us, and open our ears and hearts that we might hear and heed your call to prepare for you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: God is working and preparing the world for God's reign. God welcomes us as we return from our failures and mistakes and prepare by BEING the children of God, the disciples of Jesus.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Be Thou My Vision (music at end of bulletin)*

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

MESSAGE: *"Wait... what?? ... NOW??"*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Choose to Love*

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 have been marked by the cross of Christ. We have heard the Word.
We have been fed by God's meal of grace, and now we are being sent out.
Go into the world in God's peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good.
Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak.
Make common cause with the poor and the oppressed.
Help the afflicted.
Honor all people.
Love your life, and love the One who bestowed it upon you.
May God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer bless us now and forever.

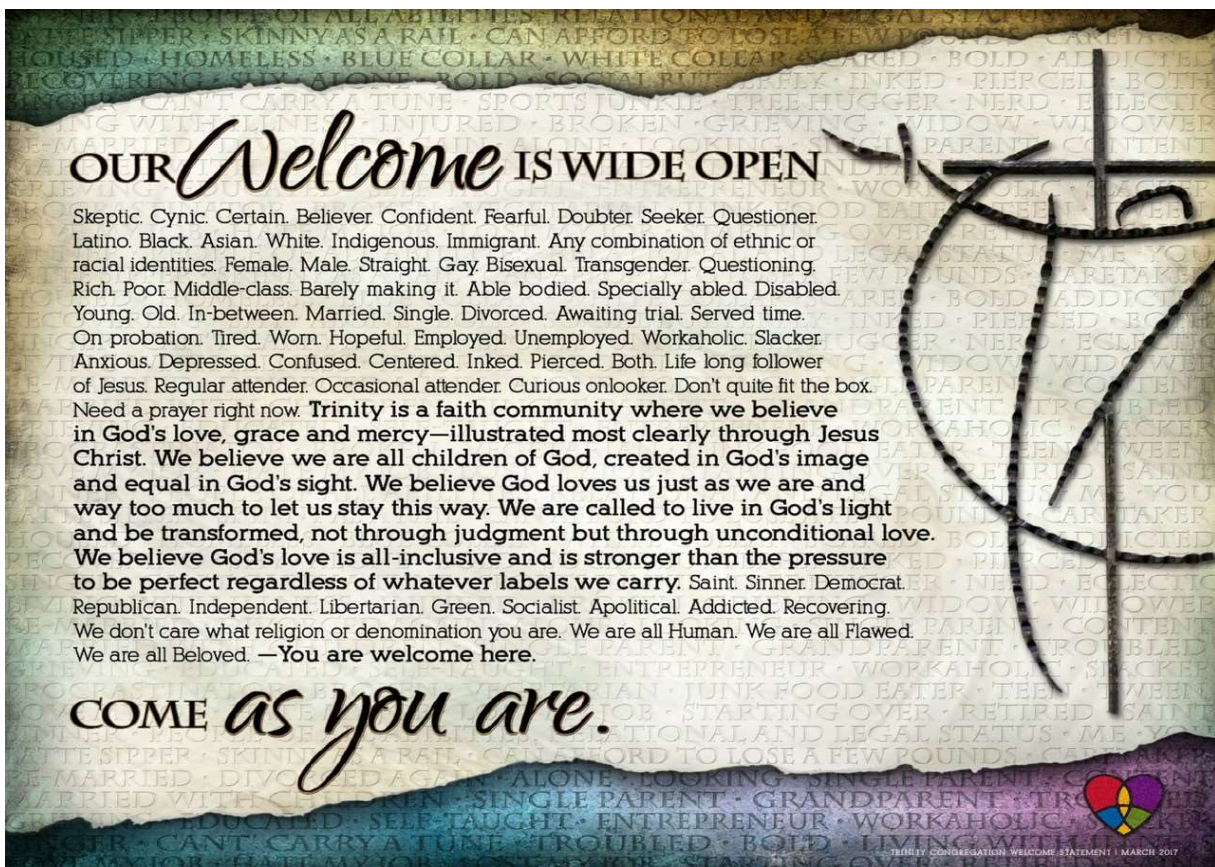
People: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: By Our Love

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



God Says It's Time

3

It's time to cel - e - brate the Love of God, it's
time for us to get bu - sy. Get bu - sy with the things that mat - ter most like
jus - tice and com - pas - sion. It's time for us to take ac - tion as we
lis - ten for the voice of the Ho - ly One 'cause God is still speak - ing, and
God says it's time, yeah God is still speak - ing, and God says it's
Fine
time. It's time to put first things first, to set all dis - trac - tions a -
side. If God is still speak - ing now, then what is God say - ing to
us? The chan - ces get down to work, the work of the bo - dy of
Christ. There's heal - ing and lov - ing and reach - ing out that
love. There's jus - tice, and for - give - ness and wel - com - ing that
God wants to do, in and through the lives that we live and the
God want to do, in in and through the the choi - ces we make and the
love we give. So let's roll our sleeves up now be - cause it's
risks we take. So let's live that mes - sage now be - cause it's



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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