



OCTOBER 9-10, 2021

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION PRAYER:

Jesus, strong Shepherd, your love for us is eternal and your care for us is persistent, but how we resist your guidance. We wander off, tempted by quick and flashy solutions. We hold back, cautiously seeing what others are choosing. We bleat our disagreements and criticisms to anyone who will listen. We rush ahead, confident that we know best. Strong and tender Shepherd, draw us close to you so your voice will echo in our hearts and your love will guide our steps. Call us again by name and lead us in the paths of peace. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
-J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
- ❖ If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.
-Ancient Chinese Proverb
- ❖ “Any dead fish can float down the river. GO AGAINST THE FLOW!!”

PRAISE SONG: *Hope House (music at end of bulletin)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Tongues of fire

All: Set our hearts ablaze with love.

One: Tongues of fire

All: Kindle our passion for justice and beauty.

One: Mighty winds

All: Blow the timidness from our words and deeds.

One: Mighty winds

All: Send us along the paths of peace and reconciliation.

One: Wind and fire

All: Make us alive and surprise us with the depths of love and the heights of joy that you stir in us.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

All: Holy God, you are the great inviter, always extending a welcome to us. We respond with caution, fearful of what may be required of us. We respond with narrow delight, hoping the invitation is only for us and not for "them." We respond hesitantly, not trusting or believing that you really want and invite us. We respond with excuses, waiting to make a full commitment, waiting to give more until we feel ready.

Tender God, release us from the grip of our fears and guilt. Open up our lives and help us let go of that which hinders our love of you and one another. Dissolve our foolish fears that make us grasp things rather than hold people. Ease us into a deep promise of community. Make us dwell in your healing forgiveness. Enable us to respond to your invitation to pray, to give, to serve. Make us open to receiving what you give and to risking something new for you. Awaken us to your Spirit and help us to follow the example of Jesus in all areas of our lives. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

One: God has claimed us and will not let us go. There is no one, there is no thing that can keep God from forgiving us, loving us, and healing us.

**All: Loved, we can love the unlovable;
graced, we can be a blessing to others;
forgiven, we can forgive those who have hurt us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Changed for Good (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSONS: Joshua 24: 14-15

Joshua tells the people of Israel to revere God and then asks whether they will be like their ancestors who served many gods. Joshua says that he and his household will serve God. We have a similar choice to make, to serve one or many.

¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Romans 12:1-5

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

THE GOSPEL:

John 6:66-69

Jesus words are sometimes too difficult for humans. Because of this some left Jesus causing Him to wonder if the 12 disciples would also leave. However, they question whom they would follow and confess that He has the words of eternal life.

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

MESSAGE: "Do you WANT to be Confirmed? Why?" *Pastor Cristy Schoob*

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Let This Be a Place, Lord (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 neighbors. Always and ever in Jesus' name.

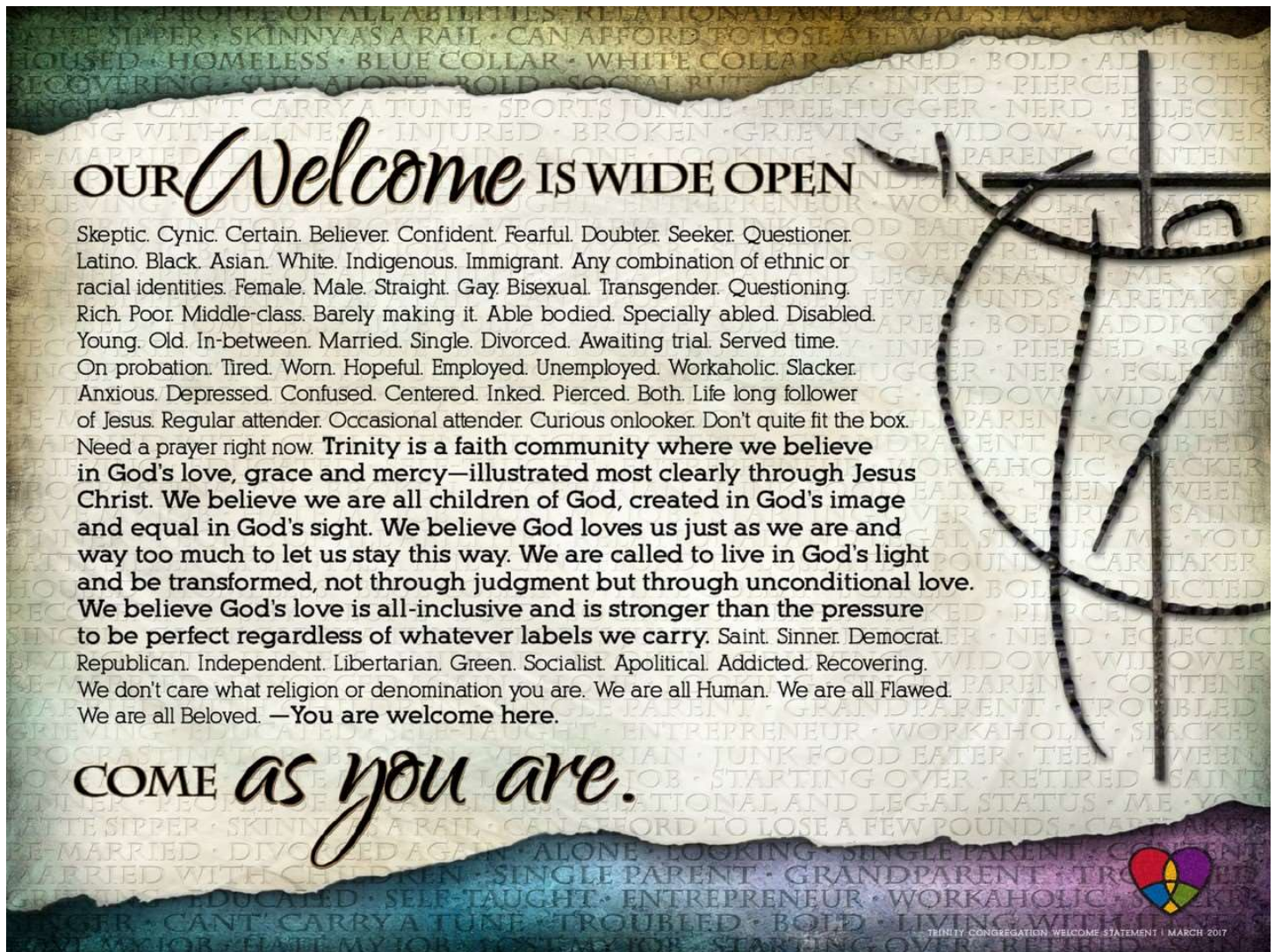
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *Ubuntu* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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Hope House

Let's make a ti - ny lit - tle world and call it God's world, where
 Let's build a world where love and mer - cy grow like gar - dens, where

peo - ple don't bul - ly and our hearts are true and kind.
 peo - ple aren't hun - gry and no - bod - y's turned a - way.

Let's make a ti - ny lit - tle house and call it Hope House, where
 Let's build a place where we can un - der - stand each o - ther, where

peo - ple aren't greed - y and we leave our fears be - hind.
 an - ger and pre - ju - dice can nev - er rule the day.

Chorus

A lit - tle bit of light in a world full of night. A lit - tle bit of warm

in a world full of storm. A pic - ture of the world we real - ly wan - na see. *Fine*

God is plant - ing hope a - round this world with peo - ple like you and me!

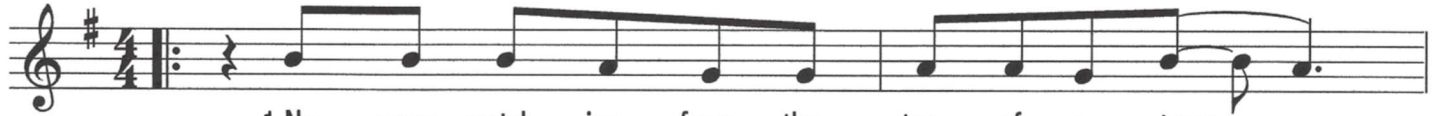
Oh, Let's build a place where the

door is al - ways o - pen, where friend - ship and for - give - ness is sim - ply what we do.

Let's build a place where we learn the art of lov - ing. We

love our friends and neigh - bors and love the strang - er, too.

Changed for Good



1.No more watch - ing from the top of a tree;
2.Light the lamps and let the par - ty be - gin;
3&4.Time to break the chains that bound me so long.



no more watch - ing from a dis - tance to see;
o - pen doors and let the peo - ple come in.
There's no way that I can right all my wrongs.



love is here and love is call - ing to me;
I am miles a - way from where I have been.
Here I start and if it takes my life long,



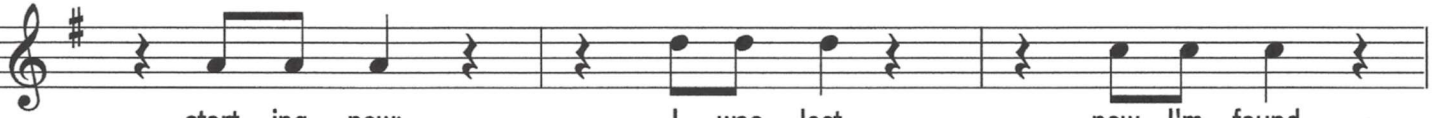
I'm be - ing changed for good.

*2nd and 3rd time to Bridge
Last time to Coda*

Bridge



Here's my pro - mise, here's my vow, things are chang - ing,



start - ing now; I was lost, now I'm found,



go and tell ev - ery - bo - dy in town. *To Verse 3 and 4*

Coda



I'm be - ing changed for good; mak - ing a change for good.

Let This Be a Place

Let this be a place, Lord where he - roes are fash - ioned;
filled with your fire, Lord, fueled with your pas - sion.
Ev - ery - day peo - ple, walk - ing with cour - age in - to the
1. night, bring - ing the light of a new day.
Lord you have called the young and na - ive, skept - ics and cyn - ics, who
hard - ly be - lieve. Lord, you have called the wea - ry and old,
mak - ing the tim - id, cou - ra - geous and bold.
Dar - ing to face all e - vil and wrong, tell - ing the truth with a
voice clear and strong; Dar - ing to live out the words that we say;
show - ing the world a more ex - cel - lent way Let this be a
2. night, bring - ing the light of a new day;
in - to the night, bring - ing the light of a new day.

Ubuntu
(pronounced "oom-BOON-too")

Chorus

U - bun- tul U - bun- tul
 shar- ing our vi - sions and dreams. U - bun- tul where
 jus- tice flows like a life giv - ing stream. The
 peo- ple to - geth- er join - ing our hearts and our
 hands to wel - come the strang - er and cher - ish the friend and to
 work for the peace of the land and so we do life!

Verses (echo song leader)

1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union
 ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother
 ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
3. ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring,
 ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
 ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us

Bridge

1. Made by God's po - wer to live as God's own;
 2. Marked by the wa - ter and giv - en our name,
 3. God, give us cour - age to do what we say,
 made to be seen and be heard and to be known!
 moved by God's Spir - it, re - vived by hol - y flame!
 Christ, give us strength for the liv - ing of these days.