

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- Speech has power. Words do not fade. What starts out as a sound, ends in a deed.
 Abraham Joshua Herschel
- Your words have power. Speak words that are kind, loving, positive, uplifting, encouraging, and life-giving.
 Unknown
- Words are seeds that do more than blow around. They land in our hearts and not the ground. Be careful what you plant and careful what you say. You might have to eat what you planted one day.

 Unknown
- ❖ Be sure to taste your words before you spit them out.

- Anonymous

PRAISE SONG: 10,000 Reasons (music at end of bulletin)

INVOCATION:

O Lord, our God, how wonderful are your works throughout the earth. We have come together to praise you and give thanks for your many blessings. May the words that come from our mouths come also from our hearts that we may truly show our thanks by the lives we live. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise and song before the Lord of love!

People: In our hearts we praise Almighty God for every blessing we have received.

Leader: And we open our hearts to the Lord's leading in all we do in life.

People: And we ask God's help that we should use our words for good and not evil.

Leader: For we have been blessed with an awesome gift in the power of words.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

THE CONFESSION PRAYER:

ALL: Oh, most holy God, we confess today how difficult it is to tame our tongues. We lay before you...

- words that we wish we could unspeak,
- silence kept when it would have been better to speak,
- our doublespeak and inconsistency,
- all the talk behind backs,
- all the chatter that tears down,
- every confidence broken,
- every wound that words have inflicted.

We pray that you would bridle our tongues...help us to think before we speak, guide us to use our words to build up rather than to tear down, and help our tongues to lead us to maturity in faithfulness.

(silence for reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: Mercy (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON: James 3:3-12

These words are directed at an early Christian community suggesting some helpful behaviors for their life together. Here the writer uses some images with which they are acquainted—a bit in the mouth of a horse, a ship's rudder, a spark with forest fires, and also the role of spoken words as a help or hindrance in living life. The writer focuses especially on the role of the tongue and what it can do in life.

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with

the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

MESSAGE: "Did I Say That?!?" Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Teach Me To Stop and Listen (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: Our lives are our worship and our ministry. Inspired by the knowledge of God's abiding presence, may we have the courage to reach out and support one another, to stand firm in what is true, to decrease when others should increase, and to lead with vision and compassion, as faithful followers of Jesus.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Lead Us Out (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

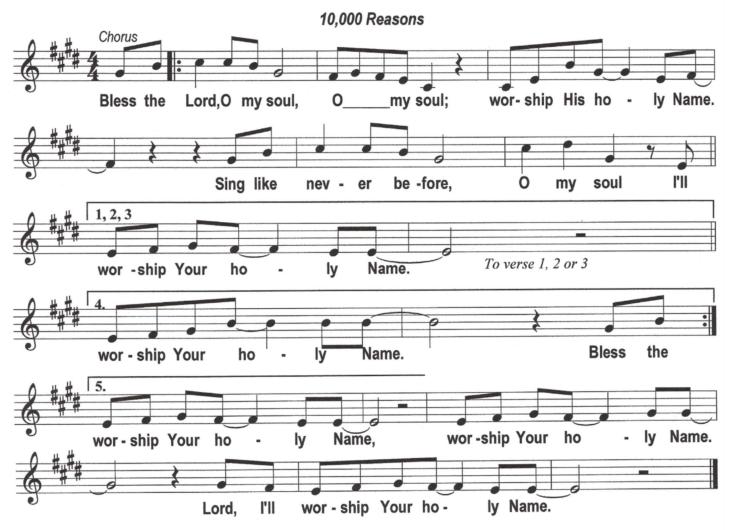


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Verse 1: The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. (chorus)

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (chorus)

(Interlude)

Verse 3: And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come, still my soul will sing Your praise unending; ten thousand years and then forevermore! (chorus)





