

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# **MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:**

O God, whose word is painful, when the mighty are not down, and the humble remain humiliated, and the hungry are not filled while the rich are. Make good your word and begin with us. Open our hearts and unblock our ears to hear the voices of the poor and truly share their struggle, and send us away empty with longing for your promises to come true in Jesus Christ. Amen.

# PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church. We should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake some-day and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return.
   Annie Dillard
- God is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better men and women. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world.
   Martin Luther King, Jr.

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Flames. Crackling, burning flames,
All: Like tongues of fire,
One: Whipped by winds,
All: Strong, spirit winds.
One: Yet, nothing destroyed, except fear All: Fear of speaking, fear of loving.
One: Nothing destroyed, except timidity –
All: Timid action, hesitant witness.
One: We want faith to be peace and comfort,
All: But God sends us into the messiness of life.
One: Give us strength Holy Spirit,

# All: And remind us where the path we follow leads.

One: Free us to live as your people in the world,

#### All: Come what may!

Praise Song: If I Believe in Jesus (music at end of bulletin)

# **Our Confession:**

Wondrous God, forever seeking us, willingly forgiving us, we should be amazed at your grace. Yet how often we ignore your presence. We focus on keeping life in control, in balance, and get angry at the interruptions, the problems that ruin our plans, mess up our days. We never entertain the thought that you may be calling us to struggle in the messiness of life. We are so bent on our desires that the faith protect us from suffering and make our life comfortable.

Holy God, you are there in all the circumstances of life. Open our eyes; help us come to our senses and trust your guiding hand as we live as your people. Amen.

#### Confession Response: Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand (music at end of bulletin)

# The Reading:

# **Revelation 1:4b-8**

November marks the end of our church year calendar. Scripture readings often have a message related to what is coming and last things. This is one of them from the last book of the Bible. It begins with a message about the exalted Jesus Christ as the Alpha and Omega, the first and last or the beginning and end of all things.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8 (The Message)

Amazed at the size and structure of the Jerusalem temple, Jesus speaks to His disciples about the indefiniteness of life, including this building, and what being a follower of Him could mean for their future.

As he walked away from the Temple, one of his disciples said, "Teacher, look at that stonework! Those buildings!"

<sup>2</sup> Jesus said, "You're impressed by this grandiose architecture? There's not a stone in the whole works that is not going to end up in a heap of rubble."

3-4 Later, as he was sitting on Mount Olives in full view of the Temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew got him off by himself and asked, "Tell us, when is this going to happen? What sign will we get that things are coming to a head?"

**5-8** Jesus began, "Watch out for doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One.' They will deceive a lot of people. When you hear of wars and rumored wars, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history, and no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. But these things are nothing compared to what's coming.

<sup>9-10</sup> "And watch out! They're going to drag you into court. And then it will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You're placed there as sentinels to truth. The Message has to be preached all across the world.

<sup>11</sup> "When they bring you, betrayed, into court, don't worry about what you'll say. When the time comes, say what's on your heart—the Holy Spirit will make his witness in and through you.

<sup>12-13</sup> "It's going to be brother killing brother, father killing child, children killing parents. There's no telling who will hate you because of me.

"Stay with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry; you'll be saved.

### MESSAGE: "It's Going to Be a Bumpy Ride!" - Pastor David Schoob

**MESSAGE RESPONSE:** Forever Emmanuel (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 and 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: Come to us, O God, especially when things get bad, and give us strength. Don't let us be afraid. Send us out with renewed courage, spirit and voice, in the name of Christ.
- ALL: Amen

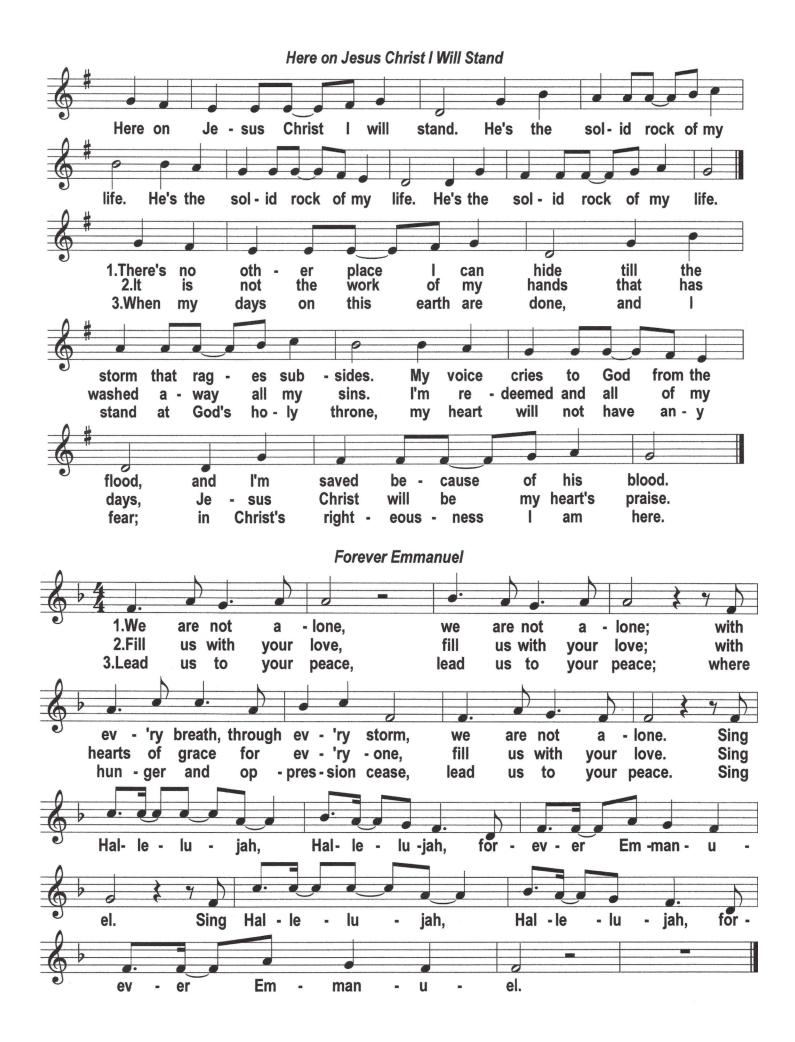
#### THE SENDING SONG: Your Kingdom Come (music at end of bulletin)

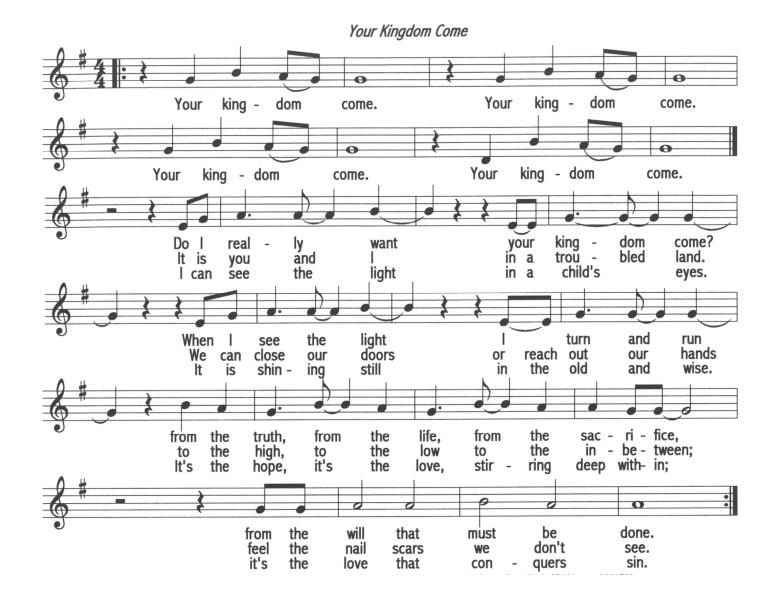
#### THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 









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