

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

O God, in our lives we struggle to trust. When we are scared and anxious; help us trust in your presence. When we are uncertain about the future; renew us with your gentle Spirit. Help us to see the future in light of trust in your love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- * "You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth."
 - William W. Purkey Counselor of Education and the University of North Carolina
- * "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."
 - Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches
- Sometimes people put up walls, not to keep others out, but to see who cares enough to break them down. - Banana Yoshimoto (Japanese Writer)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come seeking hope in an uncertain world.

People: We come filled with anxiety and worry about betrayal, pain,

challenges of today and fears of tomorrow.

Leader: But God is the only one that is always dependable.

People: God's love is the only thing of which we can fully trust.

Leader: In trusting God we learn to love and trust each other.

People: We take the risk of love and trust.

PRAISE SONG: Bind Us Together (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Holy God, we often go through our days anxiously trying to guarantee a desired future. We fail to notice your divine presence as we work to create our vision of what life should be. We ignore grace extended to us, and judge our lives on what we achieve. Forgive us, and open our eyes, our ears, our hearts to your promised future. Open our hearts to trust and love you and the people who you place in our lives. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Leader: God is the only source of true life, the only one who can free us from our fears and anxieties. Through God's grace we can live more richly. We are set free to love.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Let the Walls Fall Down (music at end of bulletin)

THE READINGS: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith* our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*

THE GOSPEL: John 15:12-17

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you

do what I command you. I do not call you servants* any longer, because the servant* does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

MESSAGE: "The Church is a Place of Love and Trust"

- Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: No Longer Strangers (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 it is 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: The mighty one has done great things for us, and holy is God's name, even when we cannot see God's greatness. May God fill us with love and trust so that we might see the glory of God and the beauty of the world around us. May God fills us with love so that we might trust each other and share and receive in new and life giving ways.

ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Stand With You (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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