



SEPTEMBER 30/OCTOBER 1, 2023
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

Holy God, as the light of the sun is transformed by plants into energy, so we transform your Divine Light into love and service.

Open our hearts so we may draw down the Light. Fill us with your presence, and turn our acts of kindness, words of blessing, gifts of service into Light for others. Amen

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEEING JESUS AROUND US

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.”* - Augustine
- ❖ *God is a verb, not a noun.* - R. Buckminster Fuller
- ❖ *Where mercy, love, and pity dwell, there God is dwelling too.* - William Blake

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We are called by God,

All: Drawn to the water,

One: Sprinkled with love,

All: Claimed forever.

One: We are loved by God,

All: Never forgotten,

One: Treated as honored and precious,

All: Receiving divine blessing.

One: We are sent by God,

All: To befriend the world,

One: Cherish the young,

All: Comfort the grieving,

One: Lift up the fallen,

All: Helping others find our Lord.

PRAISE SONG: “It’s All About Love” (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

All: We confess, O Lord, that we need an inner cleansing. We have allowed our spirits to be darkened by the plaque of sin. We need our desires altered that they might more closely align with your will. We need purity of heart and for your love to flood over us and in us. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may see more nearly as you see, see the needs of those around us. Open our spiritual ears that we may hear your voice more clearly, and hear the cries of the hurting of the world. Then stir up our spirits that we may rise up with faith and move out into the world to be true servants of Christ our Lord. Hear our confession, loving God, and help us in our love for others to reveal you to the world. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: “Help Us, O Lord” (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON: James 2:14-17

This early Christian writer is suggesting that belief is meant to be shown in action. It is not either/or but both/and. Confessing faith or trust in God includes works of love and care for others.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 7:18-23

Jewish belief included the expectation that the Messiah or deliverer would come sometime and make everything good and whole. Followers of John the Baptist came and asked Jesus if He is the Messiah, the expected one, or shall they look for someone else. While He does not answer them with a “yes” or “no”, Jesus points them to His actions of healing as the answer to their question.

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ When the men had come to him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”’ Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

MESSAGE: “God is a verb, not a noun!” - Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: “With Kindness” (music at end of bulletin)

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Something Beautiful For God. Lyrics and music by Bryan Sirchio. © Crosswind Music. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

It's All About Love

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and conversational, with lyrics placed directly below the notes. The lyrics are: "What does it mean to call my-self a Chris-tian? If you ask me why I'm drawn to Je-sus; When I feel lost and ev-'ry-thing's un-cer-tain; What does it mean to live out my faith? if you ask me why I fol-low Christ; when I'm not sure what choic-es to make, I do not think it's a list of dos and don'ts. I won't tell you 'I'm a-fraid of judg-ment day.'" these sim-ple words always help me find my way. That's just not deep e-nough. It's all a bout That's just not deep e-nough. They're al-ways deep e-nough. love. It's all a-bout love. It's all a-bout love and the kinds of things that love does, things like jus-tice and com-pas-sion. It's all a-bout love."

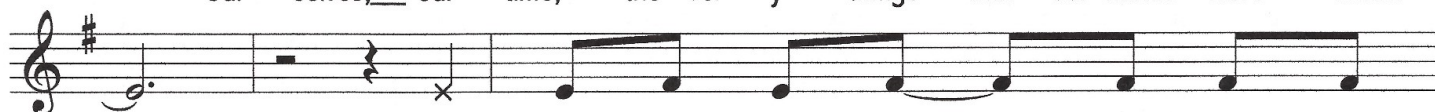
Help Us, Oh Lord



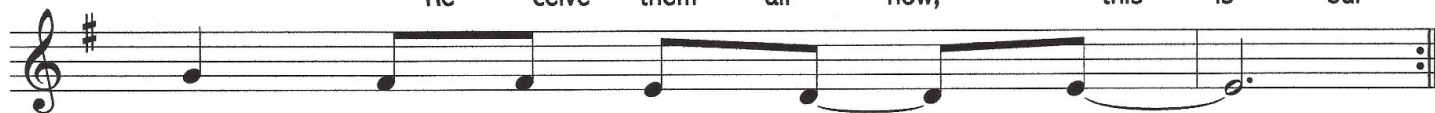
Help us, oh Lord, to do what is right and wise.
Teach us to live your king - dom here on earth.
(We)of-fer in joy what you first to us gave.



- Help us to see our bro - thers' needs that are in dis - guise.
- O - pen our lives to treat each per - son with e - qual worth.
Our - selves, our time, the ver - y things that our hands have made.



- Help us, oh Lord, to feel the
Re - mind us we're fam - i - ly; we're
Re - ceive them all now, this is our



pain in our sis - ters' eyes.
bound by bap - tis - mal birth.
prayer in Je - sus' name.

With Kindness

Christ has no bod - y here but ours. No hands, no
feet here on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes through
which he looks on this world with kind -
ness. Ours are the hands through which he works.
Ours are the feet on which he moves. Ours the voic - es
through which he speaks to this world with kind - ness.
Through our touch, our smile, our list'ning ear, em - bod - ied in us,
Je - sus is liv - ing here. Let us go, now, in - spir - it - ed
in - to this world with kind - ness.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'With Kindness'. It consists of ten staves of music in a single system. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. There are several repeat signs and a double bar line at the end of the piece.

Something Beautiful for God

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket and a fermata over the final measure. A small number '3' is written above the staff.

1. Know this one thing a - bove all else.
2. Ev - ry one who we meet to - day
3. Je - sus will vis - it us to - day

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

We are loved, loved by God. Let this be how we
is God's child, God's own child. May our lives help them
in dis - guise, in dis - guise. Poor and weak, Christ will

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

see our - selves, as peo - ple loved, loved by God. And
hear God say, "You are my child, God's own child." A
come our way, - Je - sus Christ in dis - guise. The

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

once we know the love of Christ; feel God's heal - ing
smile can ra - di - ate God's love. Let them see the
lone - ly poor, the vic - tim - ized, love for them is

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

in our lives, lov - ing ser - vice is
Christ in us. Let our lives be the
love for Christ. Love is wa - ter to

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

how we give our love back to God. To -
cheer - ful - ness of God in this world! To -
quench the thirst of Christ on the cross. To -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God! Do some - thing small, but

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

do it with great love. Do what we can, where we are

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature.

with what we've got. To - day, let us do some - thing

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It includes first, second, and third endings, and a 'D.S. al Coda' instruction.

beau - ti - ful for God. God! To -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It includes a 'Coda' instruction.

beau - ti - ful for God, to - day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God, to -

Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two flats, and 4/4 time signature. It includes a first ending bracket and a fermata over the final measure. A small number '3' is written above the staff.

day let us do some - thing beau - ti - ful for God!