

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
July 12, 2020
The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. It will be posted on either the church's Facebook page and/or the website, www.mpchurch.net. Please check Facebook, the website and emails the church for links to the recorded service. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Elder for July is Jim Ryan, 513-791-2499.

The Deacon for July is Sue Rose, 513-532-3794.

The Session meets this evening – if you have anything for Session to discuss, please contact Clerk, Bertie Spicker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 130:1-7

Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

 Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive

 to my cry for mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,

 Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

 so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,

 and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord

 more than watchmen wait for the morning,

 more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

 for with the LORD is unfailing love

 and with him is full redemption.

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

*There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love ere but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is merciful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your righteousness we may discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 1:9-18

At that time I said to you, "You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone. The LORD your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky. May the LORD, the God of your ancestors, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised! But how can I bear your problems and your burdens and your disputes all by myself? Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you."

You answered me, "What you propose to do is good."

So I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you—as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials. And I charged your judges at that time, "Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Healthy Soil

Ruling Elder Beth Doebereiner

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Taken from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: Preaching good news to the poor, teaching by word and deed, calling all to repent and believe the Gospel, We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally good in God’s image. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Savior, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ and to live holy and joyful lives.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

God of all creation,

Hear us as we pray for all you create

You have created us in your image.

Let us remember this in love.

You tell us to love one another.

Let us love neighbor as friend and enemy as neighbor.

Remind us to speak kindly,

As the thoughts of our hearts become the words of our mouths.

We pray that those who thirst

Receive the water of life

We pray that those who hunger

Receive the bread of heaven

We pray that those who are burdened

Find rest in the gentleness of Christ

We pray that those who are anxious

Find peace that comes with reliance on God

We pray that those who despair

Find the joy that comes from life in God

With confidence that you hear our prayers,

We offer ourselves to you.

Here I am, Lord.

And now with the words Jesus taught us to say when we pray:

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 debts

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

William Bright

Loving God,

you want us to give thanks for all things,

to fear nothing except losing you,

and to lay all our cares on you,

knowing that you care for us.

Protect us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties,

and grant that no clouds in this mortal life

may hide from us the light of your immortal love

shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision