

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
August 16, 2020
The Twentieth 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 *Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples of the Lord*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to Virtual Worship at Montgomery Church on August 16, 2020.
- Elder of the Month: Beth Doebereiner (675-4295)
- Deacon of the Month: Lois Silber (791-1498)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 133:1-3

How very good and pleasant it is
 when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
 running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
 running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
 which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
 life forevermore.

HYMN

*O God of Every Nation
O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where fear and hate divide us and bitter threats are hurled.
In love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

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 as we pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

Merciful God, we confess that, just like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. Like the disciples, we find ourselves wishing that they would just go away and leave us in peace.

In Your mercy, forgive us. Remind us again of the deep love You showed toward us when we were still in need – a love so deep that it sent You willingly to the cross on our behalf.

Show us how to love others as You have loved us. Teach us Your compassion, so that we may be Your hands and feet to those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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

O God, by your Holy Spirit tell us what we need to hear and show us what we ought to do to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there: since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC *Amazing Grace*

SECOND READING

Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Gone to the Dogs?

Ruling Elder Stephen Thiel

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Closing of the Belhar Confession

We believe

- **that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged**
- **that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**
- **that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**

- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against in-justice and with the wronged;
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear us pray as Jesus taught us as we say:

**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

Now to the One who is able
to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without shame
in the presence of God's glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,

before all time and now and forever.

Amen.

Proclaim the good news,
Be persistent in prayer,
Do the work of the Gospel,
And carry out the ministry
Of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Come! Live in the Light!

*Come! Live in the Light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of the great day when all will be one!
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

† The Prayer of Confession is from Rev. Christine Longhurst's Re:Worship website.