

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
August 9, 2020
The Eighteenth 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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

GTG 20

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Beth Doebereiner (675-4295)
- Deacon of the Month: Lois Silber (791-1498)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.”⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

HYMN

*We Are One in the Spirit
(They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)*

GTG 300

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John M. Perkins, *One Blood*

Lord God, grant that we may see and know the measure of Your displeasure with us as we claim to belong to You yet choose to be separate from one another. May the fire of Your Spirit burn within our hearts so that we are thrown from our places of complacency and comfort and find ourselves hastening to make You known among the people of the earth, because we Your Church are one. 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

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lift Every Voice and Sing

GTG 339

Lyrics: James Weldon Johnson

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson

*Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise,
high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.*

SECOND READING

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from

heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

⁸“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

⁹“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹²The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

¹⁵“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

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

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE *One Blood, One Love*

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, one race, one blood,

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 you bind up the wounds of those who suffer

Bind up our wounds with your truth and peace,

Help us be Your Church,

Overflowing with love for all of your creation,

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

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Amen.