



June 25, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Damon Moore, Lay Leader

Prelude

Beautiful Isle of Somewhere

Fearis

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Susan Whitman

"Please stand as we call ourselves to worship."

The first shall be last.

We come to worship as we are.

The last shall be first.

We come with confidence.

The first shall be last.

We come with questions.

The last shall be first.

We come burdened by failure.

The first shall be last.

We come celebrating success.

The last shall be first.

We come fearful of the future.

The first shall be last

and the last shall be first

and a little child shall lead them.

***Opening Prayer**

Susan Whitman

Wise and wonderful God, you have come to us in the form of a vulnerable child; You teach us that the last are first and the first, last; You lead us on a Way to new life that leads through death. Truly your wisdom is different than ours! Meet us in this place and teach us your

wisdom and your compassion; give us joy to receive it fully and courage to live it bravely, through Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and Word.

***Hymn**

We'll Work 'Til Jesus Comes

Monitors

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Susan Whitman

Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Children's Time

That's Not Fair!

Alexia Boyer and Alex Glover

Morning Prayer

Tom Gatewood

The Lord's Prayer

Ministry of Music

His Grace Will Lead Us Through

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Susan Whitman

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17 (ESV)

Susan Whitman

From Everlasting to Everlasting

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

90 Lord, you have been our dwelling place[a]
in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"[b]

4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,

or as a watch in the night.

5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

Psalm 90:13-17 (ESV)

13 Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
16 Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
17 Let the favor[a] of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

New Testament Reading

Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)

Susan Whitman

Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?

Damon Moore

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

Susan Whitman

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

Susan Whitman

Whatever our struggles, whatever our miracles, whatever our burdens, whatever our fruitful labor, we are thankful for the blessings from God and from God's good creation. As signs of our gratitude, let us offer now our tithes and gifts.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Saved By Grace

Stobbins

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Susan Whitman

Loving and righteous God, you are far more generous to us, and to all who work in your kingdom, than we desire or deserve. Make us generous to others as you have been to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The liturgist Continues:

Our closing hymn is “The Unclouded Day.” The words are found on the monitors.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

The Unclouded Day

Monitors

Commission and Blessing

Damon Moore, Lay Leader

(based on Exodus 16:2-15, Matthew 20:1-16)

Go out from here as workers in God’s fields,
where the last are first and the first are last,
where needs are met in miraculous ways,
and there is grace enough for all!

And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you and sustain you in the coming days. Amen.

Choral Benediction

Go, Ye, Go Ye Into the World

Go ye, go ye into the world,

And tell the story to all believers.

Go ye make disciples of all the nations.

Go ye, go ye now, and I will be with you there!

Postlude

Chorus of Praise

Johnston