



October 15, 2023
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

Autumn Reverie

Paxton

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**

Quinn Hetherington

Leader: Let us thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God's praise?

People: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

Leader: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen! (Adapted from Psalm 106)

***Opening Prayer**

Quinn Hetherington

Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space to celebrate your goodness and presence in our gathering time together. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen!

***Hymn**

The Lily of the Valley

TFWS 2062

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Quinn Hetherington

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds our common life.

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

Children's Time

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Lord, I Believe
(The Apostles' Creed)

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Quinn Hetherington

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen

Acts 11:19-30

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

UMH 474

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Sermon

"I Believe in the Church, Communion of Saints, Forgiveness, Resurrection, and Life Everlasting."

Pastor Larry

Apostles' Creed

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

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Quinn Hetherington

All we have comes from you, O Lord. So, we give our offerings and tithes with generous hearts in thanksgiving for all you do for us. May these gifts given today offer hope in proclaiming and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior with all the world.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Gordon

**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*

Quinn Hetherington

Take our offerings and tithes, O God, bless them that they may be used to share your love and blessing in our community and the world. May these offerings provide for the least of these needs and the proclamation of your word to those seeking hope. Amen!

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*** Closing Hymn**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

UMH 557

Benediction

Pastor Larry

Choral Benediction

Benediction Hymn

**Now may the Lord bless you and keep you
and make his face to shine upon you;
and may God lift his countenance upon you
and give you blessed peace for now and evermore.**

Postlude

God is Our Salvation

Nordman

THE LILY OF THE VALLEY

*I have found a friend in Jesus, he's everything to me,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
the Lily of the Valley, in him alone I see
all I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow he's my comfort, in trouble he's my stay.
he tells me every care on him to roll.
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*2 He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
in temptation he's my strong and mighty tower;
I have all for him forsaken, and all my idols torn
from my heart, and now he keeps me by his power.
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempts me sore,
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*3 He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
while I live by faith and do his blessed will;
a wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
with his manna he my hungry soul shall fill.
Then sweeping up to glory, to see his blessed face,
where rivers of delight shall ever roll.
He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:*

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:*

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:*

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

*3. We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

*4. When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.*