

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, September 27, 2020 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus reaches toward us, calling us to be disciples, gathering us together as church.

People: We are one people, all members of God's family.

Leader: Jesus reaches toward others beyond us, with love and caring that knows no boundary.

People: We are one people, all members of God's family.

Leader: Let us worship God, and be as Christ in welcoming, loving, and caring for all who come in faith seeking the Savior.

People: We are one people, all members of God's family.

Confession and Words of Assurance

Leader: God's steadfast love and faithfulness surround us. In the safety and certainty of that love, let us confess our sins.

All: Loving God, we confess today that we often put our trust in others rather than in you.

We miss opportunities to serve you because we're just too busy. We miss opportunities to help others, because our own needs have come first. We surround ourselves with so many worries that we become stuck. We fear failure. We fear getting hurt or embarrassing ourselves, so we don't speak up or act when we should. Faithful God, we know we can trust in you. Forgive us our failures and mistakes and help us move on in your way. Help us delight to do your will. Amen.

Leader: God does not withhold God's mercy from us; God's steadfast love and faithfulness will keep us safe forever.

People: Thanks be to God for setting our feet upon a rock and keeping our steps secure.

Hymn: *Jesus Shall Reign*, vs. 1&5 (#300)

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
tributes of praise for all to sing
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21.23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Message

Pastor Don Francois

“Actions Speak Louder...”

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*, vs 1&4 (#304)

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Christ servant of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Christ servant of all.

4. Before the cross, with heaven’s throng
we on our knees shall fall;

We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Christ savior of all.

We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Christ savior of all.

Benediction

Postlude