

FIRST SUNDAY
Holy Communion Sunday
June 6, 2021

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

"A true Jew keeps the Sabbath. Even their animals rest.
as Christian our sabbath is the Holy Ghost.
It must affect our all. Work, School, Business, Husband, Wife, Child, facebook,
Instagram, whatsapp, All"
— Mary Tornnyenyor.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Someone is wounded, how shall we respond? Shall we be Law,
removing ourselves from sight?

People: Let us be Love, with an able hand reaching out to heal.

Leader: A fragile spirit is shattered, how shall we respond? Shall we be damaging,
discarding what is broken?

People: Let us be Creation, turning old glass fragments into something new.

Leader: When those who are defenseless cannot be heard, how shall we respond?

Shall we be Silence, turning away with a deaf ear?
People: Let us be Sound, giving voice to those who need it.

ALL: In the name of the tattered stranger, the fragile spirit and the defenseless ones let love triumph over law. Let creation overcome destruction. Let sound resound through silence. Let us worship our healing God.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (NCH- black) # 459 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” vs 1-2

1. Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never turning, God will guide me safely home.
Teach me some lorious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's unfailing love.

2. Here I am pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, Guide will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, and precious blood.

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
(unison)(we use “sins”)

**Holy One, we gather on this day, to praise You for You are our strength.
We gather in this sacred space, to be fed by Your Spirit of grace and hope.
May we each receive the blessing You prepare for us, may each moment be
made sacred with our praise and prayers. God in Community, Holy in One,
hear us as we pray as we are taught,**

*“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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S LIVING WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Children are invited to come forward)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 5:12-15 – Sue Milici

¹² "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work, you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox, your donkey or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest, as well as you. do. ¹⁵ Remember, that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

New Testament Mark 2: 23-3: 6 Sue Milici

²³ One sabbath he was going through the grain fields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?"

²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶ He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence which is not lawful for any but priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." ²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath; ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath"

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

² They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man who had the withered hand. "Come forward."

⁴ Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He

stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

SERMON

“Being Good For Nothing”

HYMN (NCH black) # 485 *“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” vs 1-2*

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in you;
I give you back the life I owe, that
In your ocean depths its flow may swell with ardor true.

2. O Light that follows all my way,
to you I yield my flickering flame;
Renew my spirit's feeble ray, that
from your brilliant sunlit day it may new brightness claim.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

God of Grace, we are not always at our best, or come close to what You need and expect of us. We turn our backs on the strangers around us, remain silent in the face of bullying, and seek revenge instead of redemption. So, on this holy day, Gracious God, we pray for Your forgiveness. May we walk in Your light. May we open our hands to serve others with the grace, hope, and peace poured into us through Jesus Christ. Listen O God as we pray silently...

Silence is kept as you offer your silent prayer of confession

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (IN UNISON)

No longer held captive by our foolish choices, on this holy day and each day forward, God blesses us with hope and mercy. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION – (Black NCH) # 332 *“As We Gather at Your Table”*

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story still we claim it our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

2. Turn our worships into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who has been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

PRESENTATION OF THE ELEMENTS

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION SHARING THE BREAD

SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

Whether our faith is strong and firm, or we struggle to believe, with all of every time and place, we sing our songs of thanksgiving to You O God for the gifts You give that nourish us thru all our days. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WE BRING GOD OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“ We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings ”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Your purpose, O God, will be fulfilled! You have poured out Your power upon us! You have instilled Your possibilities within us! You have filled our hearts with strength and promise. Let our treasures be returned to You a thousand fold. Amen.

HYMN – (Black NCH) # 77 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” vs 1-2

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; Lets us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace; Oh, refresh us, Oh , refresh us , traveling through this wilderness.

2. We give thanks and adoration for your gospel’s joyful sound; May the fruits of your salvation In our hearts and lives abound; ever faithful, Ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

SENDING OUT

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – (Black NCH) # 76 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” vs 1**

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive

hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for
God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for
God's realm and to answer the call.

THE POSTLUDE

**The end of worship, the beginning of service.
Go forth and serve God gladly.**

* "We extend our spirits to God"

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor
and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are "passing through," we offer
you God's blessings as you continue on your journey, and thank you for sharing with us.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Now, the Sabbath lies before us and we are ready to cross the threshold.

Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the world You bless it.

You crown it with glory.

You call it holy.

Through it, You call us out of darkness into Your love and light.

It is to be a day of refreshment and celebration.

It is a day of devotion and delight.

Set apart since the beginning of time, You alone release us from the bondage of duty and
demand. As Your chosen people, we will embrace this day of Sabbath Rest.

In keeping it, we remember You as our Creator and Rescue Redeemer. We do this now, with joy.

Enter our home and hearts today. Amen

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by
reading the Scripture or bringing a children's sermon, please sign-up on the
appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

June – Jack Sabine

Pastor Maryann's day off will usually be on Friday. The office will be open
Monday through Friday from 9:30AM -1:00PM. In case of pastoral emergency
Pastor MaryAnn can be reached at her home number 860-633-5833.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

You may or may not realize that the Ten Commandments were recorded in order of importance. The first three commandments concern Our obligation to God. The next seven concern our duty to neighbor.

The First Commandment addresses loyalty. (And since loyalty to a national God defined one's allegiance to his or her people, religious loyalty was synonymous with patriotism.)

The Second Commandment addresses respect for power. In Ancient times, names had significant meaning that was thought to reveal inner power and character. Therefore, using someone's name was believed to manipulate that person's power. This commandment demanded respect for God's name and, therefore, God's power.

And since the Hebrews existed because of God's power. They were not to abuse that power by needlessly evoking God's name.

The Third Commandment addresses freedom under God. Now, being free from something, allows freedom of choice. So, God freed the people from ongoing servitude so they could worship and be re-created. Hence, everyone and everything observed this sacred time of rest so they could be renewed. Sabbath freed the believer from work, so the believer could choose God and allow God to show God's creative power.

Mark 2: 23-3:6

Today's Gospel shows again the problems that Jesus posed for the authorities of His day. The issue in question is the purpose of the Sabbath.

The law governing the Sabbath had its origins in the Ten Commandments given to Moses (see above) - but by the time of Jesus the commandments had become more and more complex. Rules, rules and more rules! They tried to nail down precisely what counted as work and what did not - even the distance someone could walk on the Sabbath - all were laid down and carefully observed.

To the Pharisees, picking ears of corn classified as work and was forbidden on the Sabbath - even if the disciples were hungry and this was all they had to eat. Jesus reminds them of an incident in which David bent the Law in order that he and his men could eat.

Then he highlights the fact that a law given for the good of God's people was actually a burden to them. Instead of enjoying their day of rest and spending precious time in worshipping God - they were concerned not to transgress any of the additional rules imposed on the Sabbath.

The Sabbath was given for human creatures - not the other way around.

To make the point still further, Jesus goes into the synagogue and brings a man with a withered arm into the middle of the gathering. Then, He asks the simple question - is it against the law to do good on the Sabbath - or to save a life? Needless to say, His critics have no answer.

Jesus is angry that they are not prepared to reflect on the question - and so offers an answer that they must have suspected was coming: He heals the man.

The answer to the question is, of course, self-evident - and the healing of the man cannot be seen as doing evil on the Sabbath. But the reaction of the critics is not to think again - to reflect on the meaning of the Sabbath. Rather it is to see Jesus as a threat to good order - and to their position.

Even at this early stage of his Gospel, Mark makes clear that such confrontations led to Jesus' opponents to being the plots which were to lead eventually to His death.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- *Sunday (6th) **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
 - 10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
 - 11:15AM Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour
 - 1:00 PM Walking Group
- *Monday (7th)
- *Tuesday (8th) 7:30PM Finance Committee Meeting
- * Wednesday (9th)
 - 10:00 AM Fair Workshop
 - 7:00 PM Handbell Choir
 - 7:00 PM AA Meeting (In Lounge)
- *Thursday (10th)
- *Friday (11th)
- *Saturday (12th) 1-3PM Pickup for Second Saturday Sustenance
- *Sunday (13th) **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY
 - 10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
 - 11:15AM Deacon Meeting
 - 11:15AM Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour
 - 1:00 PM Walking Group

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