

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 1, 2021 ~ 10:00am
COMMUNION SUNDAY

A HOLY HIT PARADE

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

“Love is trusting in our God, love is being faithful to your partner and families, and love is being kind and patient with the world around you.”

We enter, never as strangers, because God welcomes each of us. And just as God welcomes you, so do we. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence, and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

***SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Though we travel from different places, we share one baptism. Though we arrive from different backgrounds, we share one faith. Though we have different dreams and doubts, our hearts beat with one hope. God in Community, Holy in One, we rejoice in our oneness in Christ, hear us as we pray in one voice the words 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

Scripture Reading New Testament: Ephesians 4: 1-16 - Reader Lynn Sharpe

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called. ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. ³Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling. ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive, he gave gifts to his people."⁹(When it says, "He ascended", what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament, with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

SERMON: "Love as the Building Block"

HYMN Congregations Choice

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God, we have a home in You; We have a family in You; We have a place to belong; to know and be known, to love and be loved. We are so grateful for this awesome gift. But, too easily, we forget the benefits it brings. We might forget our place, and doubt Your love; Remind us, and all who feel neglected by You, that we are engraved on Your hands. We might forget who we are, and fail to care for ourselves; Remind us, and all who feel worthless, that You have called us by name. We might forget our connectedness; Remind us, and all who would exclude, oppress and condemn others, that we are all made in Your image, and we are all one body. AMEN.

SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (IN UNISON)

Despite our forgetfulness, God chooses to forgive us. Seeing our emptiness, God chooses to feed us; holding our shattered hearts, God chooses to heal us. This is the good news: God loves us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION Congregations Choice

PRESENTATION OF THE ELEMENTS

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD

SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

Thank you, God. As we receive the wondrous gift of bread and vine, we remember that Jesus nurtures and feeds us with his own life. So, now that we have been nourished, we go from this place in renewed commitment to serve you, O God, with our very lives. AMEN.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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)

God, from You we receive all good things. As we offer our prayer, help us to know the impact our gifts can have, and may our hearts be open and our minds willing to do the work of making Your love and compassion the norm, not the exception in this world. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN - Congregations Choice

SENDING OUT

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** - 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

God, we ask You to bless our journey through this coming week.
May the pace be steady, and paths made safe with no obstacles to impede.
May conversations with companions be joyous and enlightening.
Yes, God, bless our journey through this coming week. 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

August- Lou Scotti

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

Ephesians 4:1-16

There is much to say about this text because so much has been offered. Up to this point, everything offered in chapters 1-3 has been a gift. This letter to the Ephesians begins with Paul saying “Grace to you and peace”. And from there every line adds more bread to an already overflowing basket. Chapters 1 and 2 give us the announcement and extensive elaboration of the many aspects of God’s grace as it has been poured out upon us. Chapter 3 opens with Paul’s own self-description as one whose very imprisonment is a sacrifice of love toward those to whom he writes. That chapter closes with an assurance that Paul is giving something else to the church—prayer. Indeed, the very text is almost a gift of praying. No other passage in the entire New Testament is so fully saturated with a sense of the blessedness of God’s people in the church. Reading chapters 1-3 truly gives us a feeling of having been richly gifted. But receiving even the most beautiful and sought-after gift can make us feel awkward if we are not allowed to express due thanks for it. Chapter 4 gives us an opportunity to respond with thanksgiving.

I. The Great “Therefore”

In verse 1, the writer states, “I therefore . . . beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” In this case, the word “therefore” is the fulcrum balancing all that came before with all that follows. It is the center point between gift and task, call and response, blessing and gratitude. In Luke 19, Jesus shows love to Zacchaeus; therefore, Zacchaeus redistributes his wealth. In 1 John we are told that God first loves us; therefore, we are able to love. In Acts, the Holy Spirit is given to the church; therefore, the church goes out in mission. And in Ephesians we are reminded that God has showered us with grace and blessings (chapters 1-3); therefore, we can respond with gratitude (chapters 4-5).

II. Worthy Means Shared

The way the writer talks about responding to God’s overwhelming initiative is by asking for a “worthy” life in response. By “worthy,” the writer means living cooperatively with others. All the virtues enumerated here address what Bonhoeffer referred to as “life together.” Verse 3 sums up this emphasis nicely (“making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”), and the verses immediately following have become the hallmark of the modern ecumenical movement: “. . . one body . . . one Spirit . . . one hope . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.” Asking for unity, however, does not require uniformity. On the contrary, the tribute to unity is followed closely by a marvelous litany of the diversity of gifts and graces given to the Body of Christ (v. 11). Many voices make up the gospel song. The goal of unity is not monotone Christians, but harmonizing Christians, whose variety of gifts “promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (v. 16). Our best means of showing gratitude to God for all that has been expressed in three chapters of this letter turns out to be more horizontal than vertical. To appreciate God’s bounty to us is to live graciously with one another. (Paul R. Escamilla, adapted)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- *Sunday (1st) **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
1:00 PM Walking Group
- *Monday (2nd)
- *Tuesday (3rd)
- * Wednesday (4th)
10:00 AM Fair Workshop
7:00 PM AA Meeting (In Fellowship Hall)
- *Thursday (5th)
- *Friday (6th)
- *Saturday (7th)
- *Sunday (8th) **ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
1:00 PM Walking Group

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