

July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Chime Sunday
WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

“Your job is to abide in my pasture, eating sweet grass and drinking pure water,
And sharing both with others, that is a lamb’s business.”
— Jessica Coupe,

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: (You Raised Me Up)

**A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT:

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to this place where it is safe to rest. Leaving behind our busyness, we can be fully present to God.

People: **We come for relief from life’s turmoil to where God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.**

Leader: We come to a space where God’s steadfast love surrounds us and where we are reminded of God’s enduring faithfulness.

People: **This is a place of God’s own making, and we are God’s children.**

ALL: **This is a time for renewal of our promises. God offers us goodness and mercy all our days.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*** PRAYER OF PRAISE AND INVOCATION** *Psalm 23 Adapted*

You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life. You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right

paths. I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe. You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch. You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house. And from a place of grace we pray together as Jesus taught us to pray, saying..

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)(we use "sins") 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 2:11-22** The Message Lay Reader: Kate Mott

¹¹⁻¹³ But don't take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God's ways had no idea of any of this, didn't know the first thing about the way God works, hadn't the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God's covenants and promises in Israel, hadn't a clue about what God was doing in the world at large. Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father. ¹⁹⁻²² That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in

brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

SERMON: “Built with God, Built For God”

HYMN: Chime Hymn Selection

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)

Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Send us where You need us most. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build community. Be to us a watchful Parent, and teach us to live as sisters and brothers who find You in one another and respond in love to each other’s needs.
Amen

HYMN: Chime Hymn Selection

SENDING OUT:

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - NCH # 81 “God Be with You”**

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you, with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you until we meet again

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 pray to You for rest and renewal. Our lives are filled with activity and movement. We rush from one thing to another as though we are going to run out of time to accomplish everything. Help us to let go of the hectic times and the stresses and find our rest in You. Relax our spirits and refresh our souls. Remind us that there will always be things to do and places to go, but that we need the rest of spirit that only You provide. 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

July- Tim Anderson

August- Lou Scotti

The Annual Church meeting is Sunday September 19th. All reports from boards and committees are due by Friday August 27th.

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

Have you ever chaffed when hearing the words “you ought or you should”?

I have, and sometimes I still do...though I am better at it now.

I know that the authority figures in my life; parents, teachers, mentors meant to help me. They wanted to give me a moral compass and learn the right way to live.

We all want to know how to live, and how to live well.

This section of Ephesians is not exactly a road map for moral living BUT

Paul wants us to understand that it is possible to find a moral compass. We can know how to live!

I. We Can Recognize What We Are

Paul wants us to understand that there is no need for “oughts” and “shoulds” when we truly recognize what we are and live true to our identity. Instead of telling us what we ought to be, this text announces what, by the grace of God, we are! In fact, the first three chapters of Ephesians are filled with such announcements of our identity: we are redeemed, we are adopted, we are forgiven; we are given revelation, inheritance, the Holy Spirit, aliveness, grace, kindness, peace, salvation, God’s indwelling.

II. We Can Remember What We Are

No exhortation for miles around? I was wrong. There is one, if you can call it an exhortation. It is this: Remember (v. 11). Remember who you are—and who you used to be (v. 12). The way the word remember comes together in Greek tells us something about how remembering works for the Christian. An-amnesia literally means “against-amnesia.” In other words, “avoid forgetting.” In a culture that tends to borrow resources more from the future than from the past, we often place little value on the avoidance of forgetting, on remembering who we are and who we used to be. A poster on the wall at a local recreation center says it all. A young boy decked out with sunglasses leans against a beautiful European sports car, his arms folded in self-assurance. The caption reads: “I’ve worked hard all my life for this.”

Arms loaded down with every spiritual blessing, we are asked only one thing, seemingly a modest request: to remember from whom all of these blessings flow.

III. We Can Realize Whose We Are

God’s action in Christ of reconciliation, of peacemaking, of building and growing, leads to a culmination: that your life is “a dwelling place for God” (v. 22). A mystical image, perhaps hard to picture concretely, the idea hints at the very best part of the whole range of gifts enumerated here: God’s life with us.

So if we haven’t read it between the lines so far, the author makes it all clear now: the bestower of all these wonderful gifts has one further purpose in mind—to live with us forever! In such a way, the Giver becomes the ultimate, consummate Gift.

Ever hear anyone say, “I’m trying to get in touch with my true feelings”? God has taken us one step beyond. He has made it possible for us to get in touch with who we really are. And as we see ourselves for who we are, we will see God for who he is—and for all he has done for us!

(Paul R. Escamilla, adapted)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- *Sunday (25th) **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtil
11:15AM Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Walking Group
- *Monday (26th)
- *Tuesday (27th) 7:00PM Church Council Meeting
- * Wednesday (28th)
10:00 AM Fair Workshop
7:00 PM AA Meeting (In Fellowship Hall)
- *Thursday (29th)
- *Friday (30th)
- *Saturday (31st)
- *Sunday (1st) **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtil
11:15AM Virtual Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 PM Walking Group

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