

Service for the Lord's Day

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 30, 2017

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

*Holy God, work in the struggles of our lives to help us turn them into testimonies of your love and power.
Amen.*

Gathering

PRELUDE

**“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
“Lord, Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”**

D. Wood
J.S. Bach

WELCOME

John Tieken

*INTROIT #403

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (v.1)

Schmolck, 1732

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

Good things can come from something that seemed so insignificant!

The spore of the yeast can leaven the whole loaf of bread.

We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God's world.

Come, let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders.

Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve. AMEN.

*HYMN #403

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (v.2-3)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us admit our sins before God; first, silently, then with the unison prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we like BIG things. We have focused on big cars, big houses, big bank accounts, big, big, big! And you must be disappointed in us when we forget that from even the smallest thing something mighty can happen. Today the scriptures remind us of the smallness of the mustard seed and the tiny grain of yeast. Each of these things grew into something that

offered shelter, peace, and hope, which became the treasures of compassion. Take away our need for the BIG possessions. Open our hearts to receive your word of love and healing, and let our spirits be ready to grow for you. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your faithful presence. For all things will work for the good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose. AMEN.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

***“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Don't be frantic! God is working mighty things in your life. You have been given the spirit of hope and courage. God is with you. Place your trust in God's absolute care. Hear the good news; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*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.

#580

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Bibles, p.737/LG. p.959

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #175

“Seek Ye First”

Lafferty, 1971

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Bibles, p.14/LG. p.17

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Choose the Real Treasure”

Dr. Bill Holda

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members. This, we believe.

—Heidelberg Catechism 4.055-057

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY/ANTHEM

“The Gift of Love”
(Bill Holda, soloist)

arr. Hal Hopson

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

Byrne, 1905

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go into the world to be those who are patient and willing to work with the wheat as well as the weeds.

We will bring the Good News of God's love wherever we go.

May the Love of God go with you always.

Amen.

*RESPONSE #543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” (v.1&5)

Colligan, 2004

POSTLUDE

“Awake, My Heart, With Gladness”

Paul Manz

(*) Those who are able may stand.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Dr. Bill Holda is a native of Lafayette, Indiana. Following the completion of his Masters in Music at Indiana University in 1975, Dr. Holda was hired to teach music at Kilgore College. He has been active in music ministry for over 40 years in the East Texas area to a large variety of churches. Dr. Holda was ordained a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church in 1982 and was active in ministry for 20 years. His recent 20-year tenure as the President of Kilgore College limited some of his ministerial activity; however, now in retirement, he is providing pulpit supply and pastoral ministry to the First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore while they search for a permanent pastor, as well as preaching and music ministry to a variety of other church congregations. Dr. Holda and his wife, Scotti Wood, are the parents to six children.

This week's prayers and concerns: Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, and the family of Dorothy Barry.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thur. 08/03

Christian Education Meeting

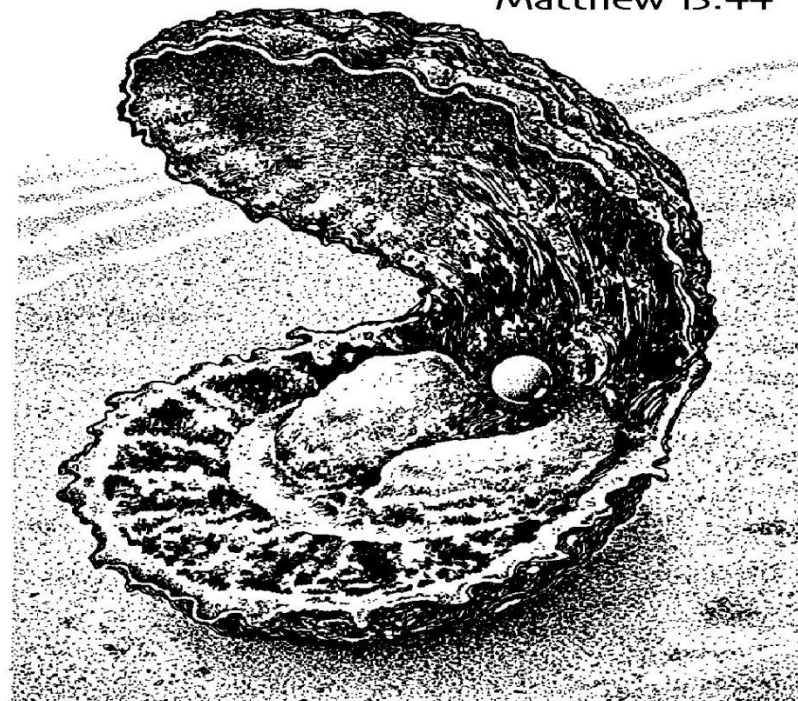
10:00am

Sun. 08/06

Communion

The kingdom of heaven
is like a treasure hidden.

Matthew 13:44



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