

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

"Standing on the Promises of God"

Carter, 1886

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

# **OPENING SENTENCES**

God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

We gather 'round table, font, and pulpit to root ourselves in sacred story and grow in faith.

God's teachings are our heritage; they bring joy to searching hearts.

We gather in God's presence to offer our thanks and praise!

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hymn #20 (267)

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Alexander, 1848

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

# CONFESSION

Let us name our waywardness and return to the ways of righteousness that we might live according to God's commandments.

God the Sower, we confess that we do not always live as people who obey your law.

Sometimes, we are like rocky ground.

We welcome your word when life is simple.

But as soon as we face challenge, we forget your teachings and our faith withers.

Sometimes, we are a thicket full of thorns.

We clamor for more and step over the needy. Your word is choked out of our hearts.

Forgive us, Lord. Let your Spirit work within and among us; make us good soil.

Weed out our resistance and water us with your grace that your word might grow within us and we might bear fruit for the sake of your kingdom.

# Assurance of Pardon

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace! Thanks be to God.

-Word -

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

Our Hebrew scripture for today is from the prophet Isaiah chapter 55, verses 10 through 13. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our gospel lesson is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 13, verses 1 through 9, continuing with verses 18 through 23.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks be to God.

"Parable of the Sower or Parable of the Soil?" Rev. Michele R. Goff

# **ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE**

**HYMN #714** (See Copy)

"God of the Fertile Fields"

Harkness, 1955

(Copy of hymn may be found on the back of Rev Michele's letter to the congregation.)

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,

may we have enough;

for the mourners and the mockers,

may we laugh together;

for the victims and the oppressors,

may we share power wisely;

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,

may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;

for the silenced and the propagandists,

may we speak our own words in truth;

for the unemployed and the overworked,

may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;

for the troubled and the secure,

may we live together as wounded healers;

for the homeless and the pampered,

may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;

for the vibrant and the dying,

may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

# LORD'S PRAYER—UNISON

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

At this time in the service, we would usually collect our gifts and offerings. Even though we are worshipping differently, we are still doing the work of the church. We are thankful that you continue to support our church and her ministries with your time, talent and treasure. Thank you!

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.

— Sending —

### **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the blessing of the Trinity—holy, holy, holy Lord—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!** Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.** 

Hymn #32 (288)

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

(Alternate hymn numbers are for the old blue hymnals.)

CHOREGATION

Watts, 1715

"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"