



ELEVENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Kathy Porter, Liturgist

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

A family formed by faith, we gather to worship the Living Lord.

Lifelong followers seeking sustenance, new disciples searching for grace—

a family fashioned by faith, we gather to kneel before the Giver of Mercy.

Children of God, come!

The Lord gathers us in and calls us his own. Let us praise God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

MUSIC

CONFESSION

All who seek healing, all who yearn for mercy, all who long for a clean heart, call upon the name of the Lord, who offers healing and wholeness.

Holy One, there is much we must confess:

When we discount another's pain or overlook neighbors in distress, forgive us.

When we choose callous words over compassionate impulses, forgive us.

When we think others less deserving of grace and ration kindness as if it could be exhausted, forgive us.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, and heal our brokenness so that every word and deed that proceeds from our hearts might glorify you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Heirs of the covenant, hear the good news:

the God who claims us in the waters of baptism and calls us to new life in Christ does not abandon or reject us, but draws near to us in reconciling love. Indeed, God's mercy never comes to an end! ***Praise the Lord!***

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our scripture is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 15, verses 10 through 28. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega, be all glory and honor forever. **Amen.**

MUSIC

— *Response* —

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the church... ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God, confident that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God, that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **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

We continue to do the work of the church. We are thankful for your dedicated commitment.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

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.

Music

— *Sending* —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the blessing of the Trinity—holy, holy, holy Lord—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

