



First
Presbyterian
Church
Henderson, Texas

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Christ is here.

Calling us to the water, beckoning us to the feast,

Christ is here.

Speaking to our souls, listening to our prayers,

Christ is here.

Binding us as one body, sending us out in service,

Christ is here.

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Christ is here. Let us worship the Lord.

MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Katie Hurst

CONFESSION

With the confidence of beloved children, let us confess our sins before God and neighbor.

Forgiving God, You teach us to seek reconciliation with those who have wronged us; for, above all else, we are to love one another. But we let resentment smolder until anger flares, destroying any chance of peace. We blame others and refuse to repent. Grant us grace, we pray. Make space in our wounded hearts for the possibility of forgiveness, and teach us to turn toward others in love as you have turned toward us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the light of Christ shines within and among us, dispelling the shadows of sin and death, and illuminating our path, that we might walk in newness of life.

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

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our epistle lesson for today is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 13, verses 8 through 14.

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 reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 18, verses 15 through 20.

Hear now the word of God.

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

SERMON

"LOVE ENOUGH TO LISTEN"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

MUSIC

— *Response* —

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We lift our hearts and minds in prayer, remembering especially the families of Jan Mims and Joyce Huggins at their passing. We give thanks for the improved health of Kenneth Tieken. We ask the Lord's healing and comfort for Patrick Montoya and Debbie Castro.

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the church . . .

Let your church be a temple of forgiveness and a sanctuary for all who are in trouble. Be near to us when we gather in Christ's name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . .

Act with compassion to bring to an end the bitter plagues that are destroying us: wash away the stain of pollution in the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . .

Bring down oppressive powers and regimes; strengthen leaders who work for justice and peace; defend all exiles, refugees, and victims of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . .

Show us how to love one another and live in peace. Keep our neighborhoods and streets free of violence; protect our families and homes from all harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . .

By your saving, healing, liberating grace, help those who are weak and suffering; give life to those who turn to you in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting that God hears all of our prayers even before we ask, we offer our own prayers now in silence. (*pause*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel, to the glory of the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER—UNISON

MUSIC

COMMUNION NOTE

Reminder: Communion will be VIRTUAL via Facebook Live streaming at 5:30 on Thursday, or you may read the prayers that were included in your weekly packet. We rejoice that we worship the Lord who transcends space and time as we practice this extension of the Eucharistic table.

INVITATION TO THE 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

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. **Amen.**

— *Sending* —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing of the one God—Spirit, Son, and Father—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**

MUSIC

“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”

