



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Draw near to the Lord, who hears our pleas and our praise.

We come to rest in God's holy presence.

Here is bread that the Lord provides; here is manna to nourish our souls.

We gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.

Remember the Lord's wonderful works each evening; see God's glory with the morning's light.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, John Hillin

Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!

As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.

God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Come to the water and remember your baptism.

Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life!

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

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first lesson today is from the prophet Jonah beginning in chapter 3 verse 10. (Jonah 3:10-4:11)

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 20, verses 1 through 16. Hear the word of God.

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

SERMON

"AN HONEST DAY'S WAGES"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

MUSIC

— *Response* —

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 . . .

Give us joy in our faith and life together, sharing in the hope of the gospel, and living as a sign of your saving love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Show us it is not too late to receive your mercy. Shelter your creatures from scorching heat; shower upon us your healing grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Let the last be first, and the first be last. Let the high and mighty learn humility; let the lowly and despised find dignity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Inspire us, by your great generosity, to help those who are hungry and homeless, or work long hours for little reward. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Give hope and healing to all who suffer—especially those who are consumed by anger and those who wish to end their own lives. 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

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.

MUSIC

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"

