



First
Presbyterian
Church
Henderson, Texas

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Listen, O people, to holy teaching; tune your ears to hear God's word.

We gather to proclaim our sacred story, to tell of God's wondrous deeds.

Come, O people, into holy space to worship the Lord, our sustainer and guide.

Let us turn to God in prayer and praise.

MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Claudia Morgan-Gray

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares, but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION

Confident that mercy awaits us, let us confess our sin and pray for God to renew our minds and hearts.

Loving Lord, you desire that we have the same mind as Christ and imitate his compassionate service. But our minds are fixed on attitudes and ambitions that draw us away from you. We labor for ourselves and attend to the needs of a precious few before considering how our time and talents could bless the world. We look up to the rich and famous and overlook the lowly rather than affirming the dignity of all. Transform us, we pray. By your grace, give us the same mind and the same love as our Lord Jesus Christ, and work within us until our actions bear witness to the faith our tongues confess.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved of God, hear the good news: The One who exalted Christ is at work in each of us—transforming our minds, healing our hearts, and setting us free to live according to God's purposes.

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

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first reading today is from the letter to the Philippians chapter 2, verses 1 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 reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 21, verses 23 through 32. Hear the word of the Lord.

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

SERMON

"Old Expectations and New Realities"

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

MUSIC

— *Response* —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

From every place on this planet, we turn our face to you, O God.
Gather us, all your people, together, to pray.
In the midst of the forces which would separate us,
bind us in your love as the Church, together.
Strengthen us through the grace of your people gathered,
no matter how we gather, with the truth of your presence.

In a world aching to be made new, we cry out with those who suffer the pains
of what powers and principalities extract from the world's poorest.
We cry out with those suffering from illness and disease,
at whom the world turns a callous glance.
We cry out with those stinging from the sins of white supremacy.
We cry out with those seeking justice, equality, and peace —
peace, at all times, in all ways.

In a world stretching toward wholeness,
we celebrate with those whose lives bear the fruit of your Spirit
and seek to share in your call to partnership.
We celebrate with those whose efforts are making the world new.
We celebrate with all who gather
to earnestly seek your transforming work in the world.

Make us a world that grows into the shape of your communion table,
where all are welcomed and all are fed.
Make us a people who grow your family
by practices of mutuality, generosity and justice.
And may we be found to be witnesses, when Jesus returns,
to the truth of who we were created to be —
people who belong to each other,
people who belong to you, O God,
in your Son, Jesus. 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

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

MUSIC

“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”

