



SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 8, 2020
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23RD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Liturgist - Kathy Porter

Heirs of the covenant, come;
let us present ourselves before the Lord.
*We gather to worship the Holy One,
to incline our hearts to the one true God.*
Family of faith, come;
choose this day: Whom will you serve?
*As for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.*

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

In honest confession, let us return to the Lord.
“Keep awake,” you tell us, urging us to watch with expectant hope as we wait for you to reveal yourself in our midst. But, Lord, we grow tired of looking for signs of your presence among us. We grow weary from a steady diet of distressing news and convince ourselves that you are still far off. We are careless with the tasks you expect of us and, so, are not prepared to encounter you. Forgive us for losing heart and losing hope. Sustain us in faith, we pray, and keep us ever watchful so that we might be ready to greet you with joy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Our first reading is from the First letter to the Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 13 through 18. God has given us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Hear the word of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

Our gospel reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 25, verses 1 through 13. 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.

SERMON

“INSIDE OR OUTSIDE?”

Rev. Michele R. Goff

DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

MUSIC

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Our shepherd satisfies our needs;
in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church . . .
Open our lips to speak of your mighty acts
and make us messengers of good news,
teaching your truth to coming generations.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth . . .
Make us better stewards of the gifts you give,
conserving these resources and using them wisely
while we await the glory of your new creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations . . .
Let all of us put away our false idols—
wealth and status, weapons of war—
let us choose instead the wisdom of your way.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community . . .
Send us quickly to help those who are in need,
to defend those who are dishonored or despised,
and to protect those whose lives are in danger.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones . . .
Give hope to those who worry or grieve—
a hope that is firmly established in Christ,
and in the power of his resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving shepherd, lead and guide us—
in green pastures and by still waters,
in right paths and through dark valleys,
until we feast with you in glory
and dwell in your house forever;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

While we continue to worship in this adapted format, our mission inside and outside of the church building continues. Thank you for your consistent and generous gifts of time, talent and treasure!

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 the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. **Amen.**

— *Sending* —

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing of the holy, triune God,
who was and is and is to come—
first and last,
beginning and end,
Alpha and Omega—
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love the Lord your God
with heart and soul and mind and strength,
and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

MUSIC



Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences