

Sunday
July 4, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg



Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.

Office Hours This Week:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:00-1:00



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Plain print indicates the worship leader.
Bold print indicates the people.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP: The Nicene Creed

The Church's declaration of independence —

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER — from *The Book of Common Prayer (2019)*

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for heritage: We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of you and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure conduct. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought together out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those whom, in thy Name, we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all of which we ask

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN: #437 This Is My Song

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SERMON: "Freedom for the People"

HYMN: #697 My Country, 'Tis of Thee

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and living God, in the midst of all that keeps our spirits frantic, overwhelmed, or troubled, we pause. We pause to remember each other as those whose precious and precarious lives are inherently bound together. We pause to remember the essential gifts of water, trees, beauty, the land we gather upon. We pause to remember our neighbors — distant and near. And so to the One who is Love, we bring the prayers of our communities.

We pray for the lonely and those who fear that community is impossible or distant. Bring joy, friendship, companionship, and hope into their lives.

We pray for those in search of livable wage employment. We pray for a job that may highlight their gifts and talents and bring forth a living wage.

We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones in the tragic building collapse in Surfside, Florida. Bring comfort and peace for the survivors of this tragic event, and be with those trying to figure out what happened so that events like this do not happen again.

We pray for Native Americans as they process and mourn the discovery of even more unmarked gravesites. Help us to care for our kindred humanity so that every person may feel seen and loved.

We pray for those with pain in their bodies. We boldly ask that pain be minimized and managed so that relief and hope may be experienced. We also pray for medical teams treating them. Give them wisdom, energy, and rest as they work in high stress places.

We pray for the ongoing effects of this pandemic that still haunt many around the world. We pray for healing and protection, and we pray for patience as this country

begins to re-open.

We pray for people suffering from post-traumatic stress and depression. Lord, help us.

We pray for the church. Thank you for sustaining us. Help us to not assume how you would like us to go forward in a post-COVID world. Grant us patience and wisdom. Help us to learn lessons from what we have experienced.

We pause now for silent prayer...

Holy Spirit, guide us in truth and grace, as we pray all of this in Jesus' name who taught us to pray saying...

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY — *Barb Hosner and Karla Stubblefield*

DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE/CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ our Lord calls to his table: all who hurt and are beaten down by the stresses of life; all who love him and earnestly seek to live in peace with one another; all who repent of their sin and long to follow the call of discipleship. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have failed to love you most of all. We have failed to fully be your church in this time and place. We have sinned against you and each other by things we have done and things we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbors because we have failed to see the Christ in others.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us to walk in the light of your grace, and in full obedience to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hear the good news: Despite our brokenness, Christ died for us that we might have life.

That proves God's gracious love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God!

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh, you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you set before the founders and pioneers of this nation an opportunity beyond measure to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom. Here you continue to call your people, freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus, to be a sign of your reign in all the world. For such a place, such a vision and such a calling we give you thanks, praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us.

And so, with your people in every land on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Above all we give you thanks for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom to every creature: Justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.

On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death by the authorities of his own nation, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

And so we remember again as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving, a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us. Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship in him, that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time in this nation, and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation where justice flows like rivers, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

VISUAL PRAYER FROM THE BOOK JESUS USED: Psalm 72

Inaugurating Righteousness —

O God, send us a righteous leader. May they judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people and the hills, in righteousness. May they defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and protect them from their oppressors. May their righteousness live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May they be like rain falling on a mown grass, like showers that water the earth. May righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May righteousness reign from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. May righteousness draw all

earthly rules back to the table of abundance. For a true leader delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. They take pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence the righteous one redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight. May there be abundant grain throughout the land, flourishing even on the hilltops. May the fruit trees flourish like the tress of Lebanon, and may the people thrive like grass in the field. May the whole earth be filled with righteousness. May righteousness endure forever, may it continue as long as the sun shines. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN: #2036 Give Thanks

BENEDICTION

Eternal One, In you alone, is our freedom found. Freedom from our shame and bond-

age to sin. Freedom to walk in the light. Freedom from our selfishness and pride. Freedom to love and serve. Freedom from death and pain. Freedom to embrace life and your movement of liberty for all people. For all people.

In you, may we rise, broken chains at our feet. We who are alien to these lands. We citizens of the beautiful days to come. We who will dwell in lands restored —without bounds or borders. We who will rest in your embrace. We the people.

In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

The offertory prayer is copyrighted © 2021 by David S. Bell, United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

Prayer for Family and Friends

Previous Requests

Mike Tuinier will have triple bypass surgery soon and until then is not able to do anything that gets the heart racing. Please keep him and Jody in your prayers.
Pray for every family undergoing difficulties.
Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

For Cheer and Hello

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| David Bretz | Mina Willett |
| Flossie Lang | Betty Witcher |
| Robert & Carmen Parsons | |

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

7/6 Tim Dibble
7/7 Judy Imanse
7/8 Doug Sponseller
7/10 Alex Ensing

Anniversaries

7/4 Matt & Jill Barton
7/9 Bob & Nancy Harper

In Service to Our Country

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Walker Polsinelli | Geoff White |
| Tyler Smith | |

June 27 Worship attendance: 49

This Week's Calendar

Today

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, July 5—Independence Day observed

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

Tuesday, July 6

7:00 p.m. Trustees in the Taylor Room

Wednesday, July 7

no church activities are scheduled

Thursday, July 8

no church activities are scheduled

Friday, July 9 — Pastor's Day Off

no church activities are scheduled

Saturday, July 10

no church activities are scheduled

Next Week

Wednesday, July 14

7:30 a.m. Strategic Planning in the Library

Saturday, July 17

8:30 a.m. Loaves & Fishes, parking lot 'til 9:30a

Coming deadlines

- ShopWithScrip orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Thursday, July 15.

Congratulations to the grandparents

Congratulations to Don and Charlene Dailey on the birth of a granddaughter on June 29. Caroline Grace Dailey weighs 7.8 lbs. and is 21½ in. long.