

Worship Service on Sunday, July 25, 2021

Welcome

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day What are crayons made of?

a) rainbows b) unicorn breath c) magic d) waxy stuff

Call to Worship

This is the time to come before God in worship.

This is the time to offer our best to our Creator.

We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.

We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.

We come to be strengthened in our inner being.

We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit empower our service.

To God be glory and adoration and ceaseless praise!

Prayer of Invocation

Loving God, your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. By your Holy Spirit use us, we pray, to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. All glory be to you. Amen.

Hymn "Same Power"

John 6:1-21 *The Message*

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."

One of the disciples – it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter – said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!" Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.

In the evening his disciples went down to the sea, got in the boat, and headed back across the water to Capernaum. It had grown quite dark and Jesus had not yet returned. A huge wind blew up, churning the sea. They were maybe three or four miles out when they saw Jesus

walking on the sea, quite near the boat. They were scared senseless, but he reassured them, “It’s me. It’s all right. Don’t be afraid.” So they took him on board. In no time they reached land – the exact spot they were headed to.

Ephesians 3:14-21 *The Message*

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit – not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength – that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayer of Intercession

O Lord, have mercy upon us, and grant us your peace. We pray for those who have no peace: for children, women, and men whose homes have been destroyed by war; whose minds have been damaged by what they have seen or felt or done; who are hungry or thirsty or ill because they are refugees or poor or underpaid or trapped in human trafficking. We pray for those whom you have called to be peacemakers: leaders of governments and businesses and nongovernmental organizations; leaders of the church and scholars and scientists and educators; community organizers and citizens and everyone of sound mind and body who can bear the burdens of the weak. Give us strength and courage and faith to trust Jesus Christ and to be Christlike for the good of the creation you are redeeming and to the glory of the One who redeems all, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, we worship now and forever.

(Time of Silent Prayer)

We pray together with Jesus and all disciples:

The Lord’s Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Holy God, bless our offerings so that we can follow where Christ leads, freeing the wealth of nations for the service of the kingdom. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sermon “Power at Work” Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Go and share what you have received.

God will multiply the gifts that you give away.

We will turn away from fears of scarcity.

We will celebrate and share our abundance.

God meets you amid the storms of life,

God goes with you through the terrors of the night.

We are embraced by God's steadfast love.

We will look up and not be afraid.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen your inner being.

To God be glory in the church forever.

May Christ be honored in all we say and do.

Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn "How Great Is Our God"

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: John 6:24-35; Ephesians 4:1-16

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2**, Kimberley Bracken Long, Editor © 2015 Westminster John Knox Press.*