

**Sunday July 11, 2021
Plumb Lines of Truth**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship *(based on 2 Samuel and Psalm 24)*

Leader: Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

People: **We have come to worship our God,
the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers,
and all that dwells within.**

Leader: The Lord of the Dance beckons us
to join in this time of celebration and joy...

People: **That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.**

Leader: We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

People: **We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.**

Unison: **Let us enter God's rhythm of life
and follow in the ways of the Word.
God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

Opening Prayer

**Living God, in every moment of our lives you are our revealing, guiding,
and encouraging presence. Right here and now be thou our guide into this
day's challenges and blessings. Amen.**

Hymn #581: Lead Us from Death to Life
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Jim Tilton

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Verse 3:

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth, let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion.

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open
to the rhythms of life you offer to us.
We let ourselves be put off your pace
and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs and ways of living.
Too often the melodies of the world confuse us.
We have led ourselves and others to paths
that are not according to your loving pace and direction.
Help us pay attention with all of our senses.
Make our dancing faithful;
help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead.
Pull us back into your rhythms.
Clean our hearts, purify our hands, and steady our feet
that we might know and share your blessings.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Carol Griffith

Psalm 24 Excerpts (NIV)

24:1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

24:2 for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

24:3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

24:4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

24:5 They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

Amos 7:7-15 (NIV)

7:7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

7:8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;

7:14 Then Amos answered ... "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees,

7:15 and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Special Music

Rachel Alexander

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:14-29 (NIV)

6:14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."

6:15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

6:16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

6:17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

6:18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

6:19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,

6:20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

6:21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

6:22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."

6:23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

6:24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

6:25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

6:26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

6:27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,

6:28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

6:29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Plumb Lines of Truth

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

Perhaps the most joyful and challenging of all the commandments is to generosity and mutual care: to love one another as God loves us. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends. Your dance of faithfulness and life, open before us a way of unexpected justice, mutuality, and joy. Take these gifts and bless them and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends.

Benediction **Unison**

Let's go forth into the world in faithfulness. We will join all those who have danced with the Lord throughout the generations. Take the song and rhythm of God's Word into the world and invite others to celebrate the joy with you. Amen.