

**Sunday July 4, 2021**  
**Putting Prophets in Their Place**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Help us Lord listen to our prophets.

**People:** **Guide us God as we find ourselves reacting in different ways to the words and messages of prophets in our mist.**

**Leader:** Thank you God that some arise within our communities and speak to our times in a most relevant and timely way.

**People:** **May we pause and reflect in the course of this worship service on various prophets we've encountered and what are the lessons we still carry with us from their presence.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** The prophets of old spoke of God's justice, even when it was unwelcome.

Who will hear their message in our times?

**People:** **We will listen and we will hear!**

**Leader:** Responding to God's call, Jesus traveled, preaching and teaching to all who would listen.

Who will hear his message?

**People:** **We will listen and we will hear!**

**Leader:** Christ sent out disciples two by two, to spread the good news in any place that would welcome them.

Who will hear their message?

**People:** **We will listen and we will hear!**

**Leader:** God's prophets are among us still, around the world and in these pews.

Who will hear their message?

**People:** **We will listen and we will hear!**

**Hymn #577: God, the Omnipotent!**  
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Tom Davey

1) God the Omnipotent! boldly ordaining  
thunder and lightning your strength to display,  
Bring forth compassion where violence is reigning;  
give to us peace in our time, we pray.

2) God the All-merciful! earth has forsaken  
all you make holy, and slighted your way;  
Bid not your wrath in its terrors awaken:  
give to us peace in our time, we pray.

3) God, the All-righteous One! earth has defied you,  
yet to eternity stands what you say;  
Falsehood and wrong shall not tarry beside you;  
give to us peace in our time, we pray.

4) God the All-provident! by your great chastening  
earth shall see freedom and truth holding sway;  
Though the thick chaos your reign is still hastening:  
you will give peace in your time, we pray.

**Prayer of Confession Unison**

**Teach us Living Christ how to listen to prophets and may we choose to open our hearts to new truths about our shared lives. As others suffer in any way and as others are treated as “other” may we feel and sense the unnecessary discord and then act in ways the mend, heal, and shed fresh light of hope for ALL. As we act out of fear, anger, or frustration mend our hearts and remind us of what is our true identity.**

*Moments for Reflection and Silence*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Children of the Living God, find that deeper place of repose, the well-spring of all life, and therein find your truest abiding identity. From this well-spring act with courage and love.

**Passing of the Peace**

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

## Reading

Carla Crompton

### Ezekiel 2:1-5 (NIV)

2:1 He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.

2:2 And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.

2:3 He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day.

2:4 The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD."

2:5 Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

## Special Music

Tom Davey

## Gospel Reading

### Mark 6:1-13 (NIV)

6:1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

6:2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

6:4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."

6:5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

6:6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

6:7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

6:8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;

6:9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

6:10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.

6:11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

6:12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.

6:13 They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

## **Musical Interlude**

**Sermon:** Putting Prophets in Their Place

## **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**

Having heard God's call to love and generosity,  
let us listen and respond with open hearts and give from this deep wellspring of repose.

## **Offering and Dedication Unison**

**Christ, hear the message we are speaking through these our gifts  
and aid us in spreading that message of hope and love  
to those whose voices have been silenced.  
May they strengthen our congregation  
so that we may continue to listen to those in need.**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing the Elements**

## **Communion Prayer Unison**

**As we eat this meal together and as we drink this juice of life in each other's  
presence grant unto us an emerging, fulfilling, and redeeming sense of life  
calling. In this holy meal of communion we feel the allure and enticement of  
fellowship enriching us and making us more able to serve you and your ends in  
life. With eternal gratitude we give you thanks. Amen.**

## **Benediction Unison**

**We will go out now with eyes and ears open,  
to hear and be heard as we share the good news with one another.**