

Sunday August 15, 2021
Wisdom and knowledge – The chicken and the egg?

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship (Written by Rev. Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*)

Leader: Give thanks to God!

**People: We thank God for joy, for laughter,
for abundant blessings of every kind.**

Leader: Give thanks to God
at all times and for everything!

**People: We thank God, when we can and as we can,
for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**

Leader: Give thanks to God
at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: We thank God that, in Christ,
our joys as well as our pain,
our losses as well as our laughter,
are in God's heart and hands.**

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**Holy God,
We are grateful to be together,
Celebrating our common joys and sorrows.
Connected by the bonds of your Spirit,
Accepted and loved by Christ our Redeemer.
May we be attentive and thoughtful
As you teach us and lead us
Today and always,
Amen.**

Hymn #1: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Tom Gill

1) Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2) Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might,
your justice like mountains high soaring above
your clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3) Your life is life-giving—to both great and small.
In all life you're living, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish—but naught dims your powers.

4) So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight.
All praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Prayer of Confession Unison (Written by Rev. Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*)

**In a world with much evil,
God continues to work for good.
In a culture which worships foolishness,
God still offers wisdom as a gift.
In a time filled with lies,
God's promises are true.
In a society obsessed with "reality,"
God's love is constant.
Let us come to the One who offers the Bread of Life,
the promise of redemption,
and the grace of forgiveness.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon (Written by Rev. Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*)

Leader: In Christ, God sent redemption for all.
In Christ, God feeds our hungry souls.
In Christ, God gives the cup of salvation
to thirsty people.

**People: We give thanks to God for everything:
forgiveness, hope, new life. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Louise Piper

1 Kings 3:3-14 (NRSV)

³ Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. ⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴ If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Tom Gill

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20 (NRSV)

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times, and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Wisdom and knowledge – The chicken and the egg?

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**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever.
AMEN.

Offering Invitation

For all the good gifts of God, may we joyfully give back all we can for God's work in the world around us.

Offering and Dedication Unison

**Oh God,
You have called us into the world, into its need, its suffering, its injustice,
and its pain; not to be claimed by the world, but as those claimed by you to
be agents of change and transformation and healing in the world.
Please use not only these gifts, these dollars we offer, but use us.
Use our hands, use our feet, use our voices, and use our hearts to shape
your Creation.
We pray in the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Amen.**

Benediction Unison

**We go out into the world knowing God has made the way for us to love and
serve our God and our neighbors.
Thanks be to God!**