

Sunday September 19, 2021
“Why Can’t We Be Friends?”

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Are you longing for more wisdom in your life?
Do you face conflicts that need answers,
tough situations that require special insight?
Do you need more peace in your life?
Do you long to bear good fruit in your life?
Draw near to God, the giver of wisdom,
and God will draw near to you.

Opening Prayer Unison

**We draw near to you, O God,
Source of all understanding,
and ask you to draw near to us.
Teach us your wisdom from above,
that we may bear good fruit in our lives.
Root us beside the streams of your wisdom,
that the green leaves of our goodness,
fed by your insight,
may not wither. Amen.**

Hymn #455: I Am Yours, O Lord
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Carol Bellamy

1) I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,
And it told your love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
drawn to you eternally.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where you have died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To your precious, bleeding side.

2) O the pure delight of a single hour
that before your throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with you, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! [Refrain]

3) Consecrate me now to your holy work,
by the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope;
Let your will be done, not mine. [Refrain]

4) There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
till I rest eternally. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**O God,
we live our lives as best we can—
dealing with difficult relationships and situations,
putting failures and disappointments behind us,
and moving into each new day
with as much energy, goodwill,
and optimism as we can muster.
But here, right now,
we seldom have the right answers,
we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives,
we just move ahead.
Forgive us for not asking for your insight.
Fill us with your wisdom,
that we may live lives
of goodness and peace. Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: When we come before God in humility and honesty,
God draws near to us with forgiveness
and renewed blessing.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

People: **And also with you!**

Reading

David Alexander

James 3:13-4-3, 7-8a (NRSV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for^[a] those who make peace.

4 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Laura Knutson & Wei-Der Huang

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:30-37 NRSV

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Why Can’t We Be Friends?”

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

Jesus calls us to give out of a generous wisdom—
a wisdom that seeks a presence and purpose in our lives on behalf of all.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

O God,
You are the generous one,
full of mercy
and goodness for your creation.
Send your wisdom with these gifts,
that they may reach those
who need your love and welcome.
Bring about a harvest of goodness
through these gifts sown in peace. Amen.

Benediction **Unison**

Leader: We are planted by the streams of God's wisdom.
Beloved of God, sink your roots deep into that wisdom!

People: God will nourish us every day with insight.

Leader: Go forth, knowing that God watches over you!

All: Thanks be to God!