

Sunday September 26, 2021
Isn't NO an answer?

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: If it had not been for God,
where would we be?

**People: If it were not for God in our lives,
what kind of people would we be now?**

Leader: We are not alone.

**People: Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth -
our Redeemer, our Creator,
and Friend!**

Rev. Irene Bom, Church of Scotland, © 2020

Opening Prayer

Leader: Who has been with us from before the
beginning, bringing us into existence?

**People: Who has loved us and blessed us and
sent us on our way?**

Leader: Who has pointed us toward the path
and posted the signs we need
to find our way?

**People: Who has been at our side when the road
has been smooth and gently curving?**

Leader: Who has remained with us through every
hairpin bend, construction zone, pothole
and detour?

**People: Who will celebrate with us when we
reach our journey's end?**

Leader: Only One. The One and Only God

People: The Holy One. The One and Holy God.

Rev. Irene Bom, Church of Scotland, © 2020

Hymn #52: There is a Name I Love to Hear
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Ken Littlefield

- 1) There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music to my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.

- 2) It tells my Savior's love for all;
Christ died to set us free;
Whatever problems may befall,
We'll live in dignity. [Refrain]
- 3) It bids me serve amid the wrath
God's people face each day,
And sheds along life's troubled path
Bright sunshine on my way. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: For the potential You see in us
and the possibilities that lie ahead:

People: **Christ be before us.**

Pastor: For our plans and their fulfilment,
for Your promises and their unfolding:

People: **Christ be before us.**

Pastor: In the problems that beset us
and the perils that ensnare us:

People: **Christ be within us. Be around us,
above us and beneath us.**

ALL: **Forgive us, God, for straying from your path for us.
Rule these hearts of ours
that they be only Yours.
Amen.**

Rev. Irene Bom, Church of Scotland, © 2020

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: We have waited patiently for God,
and God has heard our cry.
God has set our feet on solid ground,
and kept us steady as we journey together.

People: **We are the people of God,
shaped and molded by the story of God,**

All: **We are freed from our sins and reconciled to the God
by the work of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Irene Bom, Church of Scotland, © 2020

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Karen Yoho

James 5:13-20 (NRSV)

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where *‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’*

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Isn't NO an answer?

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

The generosity of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**Giving God, we can never match your generosity.
When we are in need, you are at our side, present to us even in our darkest moments.
You rescue us from harm.
Make us into a people who celebrate your goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings.
Receive our offerings, even if they are as small as a drink for someone who thirsts.
Transform them into the mystery of your reign here and now on earth, in the name of Jesus, your greatest gift,
Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor: God has created all things.

God has rescued us from sin and suffering.

People: Let us go forth, seeking to be on God's side.

Pastor: Jesus Christ finds us when we wander far from God.

People: Let us go forth, seeking to be on God's side.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit empowers us to welcome all
into the reign of God's love.

**All: Let us go forth, seeking to be on God's side,
bringing the love of Christ everywhere we go.**

AMEN.