

Sunday November 21, 2021
Thanksgiving's Fullness: The Alpha and Omega

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

A brief **Special Meeting of the Congregation** is called for **Sunday, December 5**, immediately following the worship service to vote on a revision of the church By-Laws regarding the number of people needed to serve on a Pastoral Search Committee. Our current By-Laws call for a Pastoral Search Committee of 9-12 members. In consultation with Rev. Marvin Silver who will be guiding us through the Pastoral Search process, the Church Council recommends revising the By-Laws to call for a Pastoral Search Committee of 5-7 members as more in keeping with the size of our present congregation.

This meeting will take place via Zoom, and for those church members who will not be attending service on December 5, but who wish to attend the meeting, we ask that you join the Zoom meeting as close to 11:15 as possible. We will go directly into the meeting after the Benediction. This will be the only item on the meeting agenda, so we expect it will be a fairly short meeting.

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, God, we lift our voices in praise of you for the opportunities to share in the goodness of your gift of life.

People: **We open our hearts in praise to you for this cornucopia of life possibilities for doing good in this world.**

Leader: As we listen, sing, pray, and greet each other in this worship today may we be touched by your spirit within all others with who we gather this morning.

People: **As we lift our voices in song and spoken word or sit in silence may we feel your presence among us.**

Opening Prayer Unison

We pause before you God to day to honor our risen Christ living among us. May the movements of your spirit stirring us to life be observed, felt, and uplifted in our worship. Thanks for this ingathering of such precious persons.

Hymn #12: I Sing the Mighty Power of God
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Ken Littlefield

- 1) I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.
- 2) I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!
- 3) On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glories known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

[Descant]

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glories known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

Prayer of Confession Unison

**Eternal Lord, You reveal to us the ways of justice and care.
We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to being the light
of this way of living. We do not always participate in the faith-rooted quest
and vision for equity and integrity. We have not followed the example you
set forth. Instead, we often place our trust in leaders who let us down,
And in our own flawed leadership of others.
Lead us, Christ into your ways of living. Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

We who are dependent upon the divine presence among us
have Christ's example ever before us,
to give us guidance and hope.
Take heart. Be of good spirits. New starts are always possible.
Let's live as the one's set free.

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Ron Dobson

Revelation 1:4-8 (NIV)

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

John 18:33-37 (NIV)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Thanksgiving's Fullness: The Alpha and Omega

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

Christ sets forth a just and compassionate domain in which the needs of the vulnerable and the powerful hang in righteous balance. Let us share what we have as we work toward Christ's reign here on earth.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

May these gifts we gather help foster an openness to your realm of truth.

Benediction **Unison**

**As you enter the events of your unfolding day,
remember Christ's reign of justice and compassion,
setting it before you as an example now and always.**