

Sunday November 7, 2021
Giving All – the Path to Freedom

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Unless our GOD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. *(Psalm 127)*

People: We have come into this worship service to worship the God of Creation.

Leader: Unless our GOD watches over the city, those who watch stand guard in vain.

People: We have come to listen to the stories of people who throughout the generations have shown us the way by their trust in the promises of God, who is always watching over us.

Leader: The widow who gives her last coin reminds us of the risks we are free to take with confidence that God is present through times of plenty and times of want, all along our journey through life.

People: So let us celebrate this gathering which can bind us together. Give thanks that we are no longer strangers with God's people here or throughout the nations. Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer **Unison**

Ever living God, instill in us, we pray,
the trust and self-giving that your Word imparts to us.
Teach us again during this time together
that you are always with us.
Remind us that all that we have is a gift from you
and is meant to be shared.
The Holy Spirit calls and empowers us
to live beyond our own desires.
So, send your Holy Spirit, we pray,
that we might be overcome
with its liberating courage and sustenance.

Hymn #565: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Susan Breon

- 1) God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.
- 2) Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.
- 3) Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.
- 4) Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**We know that we are already rich in many ways,
but we do at times refuse to see those in our midst who live on meager
resources.
In fact, we can ignore those
who have the most to teach us.
We don't want to acknowledge
that it is often those with the least who give the most.
We are experts with prayers that make us feel important
and we assume that special recognition is due to us.
We expect special privileges.
We speak of our belief that you will provide for all that we need—
resources and partners on life's journey.
Yet, we still don't give ourselves over to your promises.
Even with our wealth of resources, we need help to live faithfully.
Forgive us, we pray.
Lead us to live boldly as witnesses to the strength we have in Christ Jesus.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Take heart.

God gives new life, even to those who hold back
from giving fully of themselves
or who think God has abandoned them.

Let yourselves be restored to God and each other,
knowing that God will provide without limit.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Karen Jones

Psalm 127:1,2 (NIV)

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

² It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Special Music

Susan Breon

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:38-44 (NIV)

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

³⁸ As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

The Widow's Offering

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Giving All – the Path to Freedom

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

God has made us stewards of the rich resources that were given in Creation and are given anew each day.

On this day, we make our offerings knowing that all that we have has come from God who will continue to provide.

Let us put our hearts into our offerings as signs of our trust and faithfulness.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

We lift up these offerings
of our stewardship commitment to the future of this faith community
as a sign of our gratitude for your love and care, O God.
We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasure.
We pray that we may follow
in the spirit of the poor woman who gave her all without hesitation.
We dedicate our lives to you
and seek to grow in our faithfulness to your Word.

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 forth into the world.
We will be for one another partners
in fostering community that cares and includes all.
We will continue on this journey into God's wholeness
together, wherever it may lead us.
We will share the gifts of God with the people of God.
We will be gentle and bold, courageous and trusting.
God is with us, this day and always.