

AUGUST 22, 2021

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: The Lord has a different, much perception of things than we do. If only we would try to see others as God sees them.

People: We look mostly at the outer appearance of people, but what we observe only scratches the surface of who they really are.

Pastor: God's vision goes far beyond one's outer appearance. Because a person is much more than their height, weight, skin color, or any other physical characteristic.

People: What a human being looks like on the outside does not matter. What is important to God is what a person is like in his or her heart.

Pastor: Let worship the Lord who sees us and knows us inside and out.

#HYMN #2 *The God of Abraham Praise*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious God, you created all human beings, and there is no distinction of race and origin in your eyes. That means we are all one in you. You do not love and value us because we may be good looking or have stylish hair or physically fit bodies. None of that matters to you because it is only an outer, shallow image of who we really are. What is most important to you, and what you look for, is found within us. We have come here today to be molded and shaped on the inside, so that whenever you look into our hearts, you will find it full of love, justice, righteousness, mercy and compassion, and be pleased with what you see. Be with us now and bless this time of worship, dear Lord, so that we may leave here with our inner selves transformed and made beautiful in your eyes. We ask these things in the name of Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Bible pages?)

SERMON MESSAGE: Open Your Eyes Rev. Gagnon

#HYMN #224 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Invitation to Pray and Receiving the Prayer Request Slips
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
Organ Response

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation
Offertory Music
Doxology (#45 – Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We return to you a portion of the blessings you have bestowed on us, dear God. Bless them so we may serve you and minister to others. Move us beyond the giving of our money to the giving of ourselves. Help us to discern your presence in the world and direct the attention of others to it. Guide us as we seek to follow Christ and minister to those we know and those who are strangers, not because of their outward appearance, but because we have opened our eyes and looked into their hearts. Amen.

#HYMN #7 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Do not be bothered by the judgment of others about your outward appearance, because that is not what God sees when God looks at you.

People: And we will not bother others with judgments about their outward appearance, because that is not what God sees when God looks at them.

Pastor: Some people criticize others for their skin color, the way they dress, their height or weight or other physical traits.

People: But we will do what God does, and look within them, at their hearts, to see the presence of Christ dwelling there.

Pastor: Go in peace with hearts of love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE