

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: Come, sisters and brothers, to dwell in the presence of our gracious God, who has given us much more what we deserve.

People: We are here to praise the Lord, who, in mercy and love, sent Jesus Christ to bring us deliverance.

Pastor: It is only by God's grace that we have been saved through faith. It is not of our own doing, but is purely a gift.

People: All blessings come from God and are given at God's discretion. May we never complain about God's generosity toward others, but instead continually rejoice that God is so generous to us.

One: With faith, gratitude and humble trust, let us worship the Lord.

#HYMN #72        *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Your methods astonish us, dear God, because the way you accomplish the work of your Kingdom is not our way. In this world, people are paid according to how long they have labored and how much they have produced, but you are generous and compensate us far beyond what we actually earned. Sometimes the unfairness of your grace, when it is lavished on others, upsets us, and we complain that those who have not worked as long or as hard as we have should be given less than us, or that we should be given more than them. Forgive us when we get envious of your generosity. Be with us as we worship you, O Lord, and move our hearts to rejoice in the magnitude of your goodness and the magnificence of your grace for all your children. We ask these things in the name of Jesus 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 READING: Matthew 20:1-16

SERMON MESSAGE: *The Wonderful Unfairness of God*

Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Loving God, you are generous beyond measure and give us a full day's wages even when the work we have done for you is minimal. We cannot possibly repay you for your generosity and the unmerited blessings you have bestowed on us, but we can express our gratitude. Receive these gifts we have given, we pray, and consecrate them for the building up of your kingdom here on earth. Through our offerings and the ministry of our church, may we help one another live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

HYMN #477      *God of Grace and God of Glory*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: God's payment to us for our service has nothing to do with the amount of time we have labored.

People: It has everything to do with the immensity of God's grace.

Pastor: It is a blessing to be chosen to work in God's vineyard. And whether we have been picked at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. or 5 p.m., the Lord's compensation will be gracious and more than fair.

People: May we be happy with the wages God pays us, and not begrudge the Lord's generosity in paying others who have not worked as long as us the same wages that we receive.

One: Go in peace, to grow in faith and to help others grow, as well.

DISMISSAL