

Today's Worship
September 5, 2021
15th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

OPENING PRAYER

MUSIC **When Morning Gilds the Skies** All

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear
when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
In heaven's eternal bliss
the loveliest strain is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song
through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

MUSIC: **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow** All

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Karen Hoyt

LORD'S PRAYER All
Our Father, which 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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON **John 9:1-12 (NRSV)** Rev. Hoyt

1–2 Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?”

3–5 Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.”

6–7 He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “Sent”). The man went and washed—and saw.

8 Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, “Why, isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?”

9 Others said, “It’s him all right!”

But others objected, “It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.”

He said, “It’s me, the very one.”

10 They said, “How did your eyes get opened?”

11 “A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ I did what he said. When I washed, I saw.”

12 “So where is he?”

“I don’t know.”

MUSIC **He Touched Me** All

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame,
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, oh, He touched me,
And oh, the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me, and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, oh, He touched me,
And oh, the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me, and made me whole.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Dr. Bruce

SERMON **Skin for Skin**

CONFESSION Rev. Hoyt

MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Rev. Dr. Bruce

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Hoyt: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Rev. Hoyt: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Rev. Hoyt: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Rev. Hoyt: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We praise you for all who labor for the common good and for those whose service is unappreciated. We thank you for children whose play is the work of learning to live in the world. We thank you for disciples who are obedient to the promptings of your Spirit in all their relationships.

We thank you for your yearning mercy that waits for us to make all our hours and days participation in your healing and blessing of the earth and all peoples.

You made us in your image and set us in a lush garden as caretakers. When we chose to have it all to ourselves, you turned our freedom to the toil for survival. When we cried out in our misery, you delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our sovereign God. By the prophets you called us to return to you and delight in good food without Price. You confronted us with the waste of laboring apart from you, and you asked us, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? ... Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Rev. Dr. Bruce: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Anointed with your Spirit, his food was to do your will and to complete it. He took the common things of daily life, blessed them, and broke and shared them so that all were satisfied. He told those who followed him, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." He confronted the powers of greed and evil at the cost of his life, but you triumphed over death and placed him at your right hand to intercede for his disciples until the feast of eternal life. By water and the Spirit he calls us to continue his work until we and all peoples feast at his heavenly banquet.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to live daily as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father. Now and forever. **AMEN**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Hoyt

All



Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ

Welcome! We're Glad You're Here!



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Methodist than Asbury, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion;" we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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