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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | September 6th, 2020 – 10:30am Springfield Presbyterian Church   Announcements   Lighting the Christ Candle Leader: Whenever we light this candle we proclaim: **People: Christ is the Light of the world and center of our lives.**   Gathering of the People Leader: The Lord be with you! **People: And also with you!** [Greetings and Announcements]   Call to Worship  [Psalm 119:33-40] Leader: Teach us, O God, the way of your statutes, and we will observe it to the end. **People: Give us understand, that we may keep your law and observe it with our whole hearts.** Leader: Lead us in the path of your commandments, for we delight in them. **People: Turn our hearts to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.** Leader: Turn our eyes from looking at vanities; give us life in your ways. **People: Confirm to us, your servants, your promise,**  Leader: Turn away the disgrace that we dread, for your ordinances are good. **People: See, we have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give us life.** **ALL: Let us worship our God whose covenant of love spans the ages! Amen!**   \* Hymn Breathe on Me, Breathe of God – GtG #286   Prayer of Confession (Unison) **Generous God, you give us the opportunity to show love and kindness to those we interact with daily. Some days, we hit the mark – we love in abundance, we show kindness even when it is challenging, and we lift up those who are downtrodden. Yet, in our humanity, we sometimes miss completely – we are unkind to others, we do not show generosity, and we do not live from a place of love. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have not followed your will, your command of love, and craft in us a cup that overflows – love for ourselves and love for others. Help us, guide us, and renew us, by the mighty power of your Holy Spirit to recenter our lives in love, every moment and every day. Amen.**   Silent Prayers of Confession   Words of Assurance (responsive) Leader: By the abiding mercy of Jesus Christ, our souls are revived and we are forgiven, refreshed to start anew. **People: Thanks be to God for the gift of grace and forgiveness that nurtures us now, today, and forevermore. Amen.**   The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)   The Proclamation of the Word   Prayer of Illumination  Dear God, as we seek to listen, we ask that you remove the distractions of our minds and hearts and guide us to lean into learn your Word more fully. Help us to hear words we never heard before, to be inspired by the Word, and encouraged to act upon the gift of Scripture. Amen.   Scripture Lesson Romans 13:8-14 NRSV Love for One Another  **8**Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9**The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **10**Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. An Urgent Appeal **11**Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; **12**the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; **13**let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14**Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.   Time with Young People    Sermon Love                                                The Communion of the People   Invitation to the Lord’s Table (Iona Community) Gathered around a table is where Jesus so often met people – Matthew and Zacchaeus, Mary and Martha, Peter and Lazarus – gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter. And here we are gathered round a table, lovingly prepared by human hands in the divine order of grace. Come all you who hunger and thirst for a deeper life, for a stronger faith, for a better world. Here is the bread of life. Feed on it with gratitude. Here is the cup of salvation. Drink from it and believe. Here Jesus offers a taste of eternity, for all his holy guests. So accept his invitation and feel welcome at this table. Come. Jesus Christ promises to tend and nurture all who meet him here.   Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**   We praise you, dear God, with hearts lifted high, for you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that humans among all creatures might have food and drink. You gave to your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with manna and quail in the wilderness. You gave Mary, Joseph, and Jesus their daily bread to share. Even when we turn from your way and squander all the goodness that should be for your purposes, still you welcome us home and prepare a feast for us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name;   In Praise of God   You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.   In Praise of Jesus Christ.   Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”**   Generous God, you are the bread of life, O God, and we give you thanks. You create all things good, and you nourish your creation with tender gifts. Thank you for all the ways that you breathe life into our lives. We hear your words, O Bread of Life, and yet we are hungry. We are hungry for peace: for an end to the violence in our neighborhoods and in our world. For people who hear gunshots in the night and bombings in the day, we are hungry for peace, O God. We are hungry for justice: for an end to the oppression in our nation and in our world. For people who suffer because of racism, sexism, poverty, and the fear of the other, we are hungry for justice, O God. We hear your words, O Cup of Blessing, and yet we are thirsty. We are thirsty for righteousness: we are thirsty to know your truth. We are thirsty to feel your presence. We are thirsty for your Spirit to quench our parched souls. We are thirsty for righteousness, O God. We pray for those in our community who thirst this day... And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray… **Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**   Words of Institution On the night before Jesus met with death, Jesus came to the table with those He loved. He took bread and praised You, God of all creation. He broke the bread among His disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and it. This is my body, given for you.” In the same way, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, God of all creation. He passed the cup among His disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”   Sharing of the Meal   Let us come to the table, to eat, and drink, and to know that the Lord is good. It is He who has redeemed us and offers us this sacrifice. We join in this sacrament to remember for whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.   ***Prayer of Dedication*** **Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread** **and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**  The Response to the Word   \* Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This – GtG #214  Offertory Prayer Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling – GtG #366   Charge and Benediction Leader: All of the commandments are summed up into one word: **People: Love. Love of God and love of others.** Leader: With great urgency, we make it our goal, **People: To show love, especially when it is tough.** Leader: And in honoring our Lord Jesus Christ, **People: We seek to build a kingdom of love that stretches over generations, so that all may know God’s great love. Amen.** | | |