

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY
Weekly E-Mail Greetings from Rev. Lacy Sellars

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – August 2, 2020

Call to Worship (Psalm 17: 1-7)

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you, let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

Deleen Davidson, Soprano – Kristen La Madrid, Organist

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
Things I would ask Him to tell me if he were here;
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round His knee;
And I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love-light of Jesus' face.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
Waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
One of his heralds, yes I could sing
Loudest hosannas! Jesus is King!

Prayer of Confession

By Jill Duffield

Lord of abundance and compassion, we confess that when we see the overwhelming needs in your beloved world, we want to turn away, seek our own security and retreat from the chaos all around us. Forgive us for failing to heed Jesus' command to provide for the crowds. Forgive us for hoarding what we have instead of willingly offering it to you that it might be blessed, multiplied, and used to sustain everyone. We know that you are present in seemingly desolate places, meeting us in our doubts, using even our failings and mistakes for your purposes. In your abounding love, grant us mercy and make us a merciful and faithful people.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is just in all ways, and kind in all that God does. God is near to all who call on the Lord, to all who call upon the Lord in truth. Friends, having called on the Lord in truth, we can trust that God is near, just, and kind. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14: 13-21

“Nourishment in the Wilderness”

[Click here for worship video.](#)

Prayers of the People

By Jill Duffield (abridged)

God of abundant compassion and extravagant love, we join our hearts in prayer to you, trusting your promise to hear and respond, not as we deserve, but as your mercy dictates. In our dark and lonely places, you appear and bless us, make of us new creations and reshape us for your divine purposes. We praise you for your unwillingness to let us go, and we cling to you now as we wrestle with the chaos within and around us. We rejoice that you are present right here with us.

God of bread and fish, we come to you like the crowds, in need of relief, fearful we do not have enough, eager to see Jesus face to face. We heed his instruction to sit and we cannot believe that the Savior of the world serves us and refuses to send us away. Having been satisfied with the bread of heaven, we ask to be a part of distributing the mercy, grace, and justice of our Lord. As this pandemic continues and many wrestle with unemployment or underemployment or dangerous employment, grant security in all its forms to those most anxious about their well-

being and that of those they love. We know that all around us your beloved children long for healing in body, mind or spirit. We know you see them with compassion and want for them abundant life. May we be conduits for Christ's power, embodying your love to all.

God, we cannot count all the ways you come to us and give us what we need. We revel in the beauty of creation. We relish the care of friends and family. We enjoy the taste of food, the voice of a loved one, and the everyday mercies that are new every morning. As we sing our praise and express our thanks, empower us to participate in your compassionate care for all the earth and every creature upon it. We pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Rosemary Nipper is home from the Rehabilitation Hospital and is gaining strength. Pray also for her husband, Earnest.
- Larry Meyers had surgery last week at CHI St. Vincent Hospital. Soon he will be transferred to CHI Rehabilitation Hospital to continue his recovery. Pray also for his wife, Jan, and their three sons and their families.
- Cheryl Martin fell recently and will need spinal surgery soon at the neck. Pray for health and strength.
- Carol Mattson is recovering well from her second cataract surgery on Thursday. Pray also for her husband, Dick.
- Jamie Williams requests prayers for her cousin, Stephanie, who has recently been diagnosed with an invasive cancer. Pray for her health and strength.
- Beverly Black thanks us for our prayers for her son, Kevin, who works in the ER at CHI Hospital, Hot Springs. Pray that he remains healthy.
- Pray for Bill Randall, Sr. at Brookfield Memory Care, Marilyn Davidson at West Shores Retirement Center, and Grayce Leonhard at a local senior care home.
- Pray for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock and Spring River Presbyterian Church, Hardy.
- Pray for all military personnel, both domestic and abroad, who protect and defend our freedoms, and for all first responders who provide our safety and security.