

**13th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 30, 2020**

**Gathering  
*God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude**

More About Jesus  
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Smith  
Edwards

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**🕯 Call to Worship**

*Jim Fox*

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.  
**Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**  
Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.  
**He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**  
Come now, all who thirst,  
**and drink the water of life.**  
Come now, all who hunger,  
**and be filled with good things.**  
Come now, all who seek,  
**and be warmed by the fire of love.**  
Let us worship the Triune God.

**🕯 Invocation**

*Jim Fox*

Eternal God,  
you have called us to be members of one body.  
Join us with those who in all times and places  
have praised your name,  
that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church,  
and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise 262**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons,  
Blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubin and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy—there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
Blessed Trinity!*

**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Prayer of Confession**  
*(In Unison)*

*Jim Fox*

**Wondrous God, who sets suns and moons above us,  
mountains and valleys beneath us, and friends and strangers among us:  
how often have we tried to hide from your presence, how seldom have we looked for your creating  
face and your fashioning hand!**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Wondrous God, who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother, and being found  
in human form made the ultimate disclosure of yourself in the face of Jesus Christ: how often we  
have forgotten you,**

**how seldom have we really loved and followed you!**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Wondrous God, who pours out freely the Holy Spirit:**

**how often have we ignored your promptings,**

**how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts!**

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Jim Fox*

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,  
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,  
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you,  
and a new spirit I will put within you;  
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh.

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

! Gloria Patri

*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.  
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation**      With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.  
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.  
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

**Offering**

*\*Please place your offerings in the plate in the back of the church on your way out.*

**Special Music**      *Spirit of the Living God  
(Denise Finch)*

! **Doxology**      *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. A-men.*

! **Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, you have given us everything.  
Not only did you create us, but you provide for our every need.  
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.  
**Your love endures forever.**  
When we turned away from you, you reached down to us.  
You lifted us up and freed us through the gift of your Son.  
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.  
**Your love endures forever.**  
You are with us always. You watch over our coming and our going.  
Your Holy Spirit guides us and leads us every step of our lives.  
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.  
**Your love endures forever.**  
For your abundant grace we give you thanks.  
Gratefully we offer the gifts you first gave us.  
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.  
**Your love endures forever.**  
Use our time, our talents, and our tithes for your glory.  
May it bless others with hope, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

*Leader: We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.*

**All: Your love endures forever.**

**Proclaiming**  
***God speaks to us through His Word***

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**                      *Galatians 5:13-15*

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

**Sermon**                                      *"Freedom to Serve"*  
    *Tim Latham*

**Responding**  
***We respond to God's Word***

**Hymn 249**                                      *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart:  
Wean it from earth, thro' all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.*

*Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King?  
All, all thine own-soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross— there teach my heart to cling;  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find.*

*Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear—  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame:  
The baptism of the heav'n descended Dove—  
My heart an altar and Thy love the flame. Amen.*

**! Confession of Faith** (*Responsively*)

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**The LORD of hosts is with us;**

**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the LORD;

see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth.”

**The LORD of hosts is with us;**

**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

### Prayers of the People

*Leader: Lord, In your Mercy*

*All: Hear our Prayer*

### Commissioning

***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

### Hymn      *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

*O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths in flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

*O light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I can not close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Organ Postlude**

*A Joyous Alleluia*

Birchwood