

**16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020**

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

Prelude

*How Great Thou Art
Meditation on "Beach Spring"*

*Warriner
Denton*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

✠ Call to Worship

Bonnie Mecaughey

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

Praise the Lord!

Let us worship the Triune God.

✠ Invocation

Bonnie Mecaughey

Lord, our God, we trust your promise
to be among us as we gather.

We come in the name of Christ,
drawn by your Spirit,
eager to hear your Word.

Fill our hearts with your Spirit
and prepare us for faithful service. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise 292

God of Grace and God of Glory

*God of grace and God of glory, On thy people pour thy power;
Crown Thine ancient Church's story, Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! The hosts of civil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be armored with all Christ like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.
A-men.*

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Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession
(Responsively)

Bonnie Mecaughey

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord**

**more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power
to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

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 As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God.

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

Special Music *Worthy is the Lamb* *Strader*
(Men's Ensemble—Gary Covert,
Dan Baker, Pat Adams, Jim Pomager)

! 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

Generous God, we marvel at your lavish gifts to us:
life and breath, food and shelter,
opportunities for work and play,
and, most especially, hope and peace in Christ.
We now pledge ourselves
to mirror and reflect
the glory of your self-giving love,
to continue in the pattern of generosity
we see perfectly revealed in Christ,
through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Lesson *Colossians 3:12-17*

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love,

which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sermon

*“Gospel Community”
Tim Latham*

Responding
We respond to God’s Word

Hymn of Response 285 *In Christ There is No East or West*

*In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Him shall true hearts ev’rywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close binding all mankind.*

*Join hands then, brothers of the faith, What e’er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both East and West; In Him meet South and North.
All Christly souls are one in Him throughout the whole wide earth.*

! Profession 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.**

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Commissioning for Service: Bridge of Hope

Leader: The Church has a biblical call to neighboring. At the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus asks the teacher of the law, "Who was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robber?" The teacher of the law replied, "the one who had mercy on him," Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Neighboring Volunteers: Jesus calls us to an active love for our neighbors. Our neighbors include families who are homeless and on the fringes of our society.

Pastor: Neighboring is the act of loving, encouraging, and supporting a family facing homelessness. You will, as Neighboring Volunteers, be demonstrating Christ's love by providing love, support, and acceptance to a family facing homelessness."

Neighboring Volunteers: Being a Neighboring Volunteer is more than sharing our skills, knowledge, and social networks. It is sharing our lives with a family experiencing homelessness. We commit ourselves to being open and vulnerable, sharing our own joys and pains with the family and allowing relationships to grow and evolve as the family desires.

Pastor: The path ahead may be difficult, it may be full of pain, crises, and difficulties; however, this journey leads to hope when the body of Christ allows itself to become a bridge of hope for homeless and at-risk families in our communities.

Neighboring Volunteers: Through our words and actions, we will be a bridge of hope for this Neighboring Family. We will support and encourage them, and live out the love of Jesus in our interaction with them.

Congregation: We bless and commission you, as Bridge of Hope Neighboring Volunteers, to minister Christ's love to this family. We commit ourselves as a congregation to pray for you in this ministry of neighboring which you have begun. May you be an extension of Christ's love and grace."

Prayer of Consecration

Hymn 3 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Ever more His praises sing: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

*Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.*

*Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish;
Blows the wind and it is gone; But, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on: Alleluia!*

Alleluia! Praise the high Eternal One.

*Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant, bow before Him;
Gathered in from every race; Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Organ Postlude**

Christ, the Cornerstone

Wilson