

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost | October 15th, 2023

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* (with *Eine Kleine Nachtmusic-Allegro by Mozart)* arr. Linda McKechnie

Kathy Ferguson, piano;

Janet Tolman, organ

**\*Call to Worship:**

One: In our moments of doubt and sin, God's mercy prevails.

**All: We come with contrite hearts, seeking forgiveness.**

One: Just as God forgave the Israelites and showed them grace in the desert,

**All: We worship the Lord who greets us with steadfast love.  Amen.**

Adapted from work by OpenAI. (2023). *ChatGPT* (September 25 Version) [Large language model]. [https://chat.openai.com](https://chat.openai.com/)

**\*Hymn of Praise** 126 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns* *Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.  
  
2. The Lord is never far away,  
but through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory.  
  
3. Thus all my toilsome way along,  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that earth may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.  
  
4. Let all who name Christ's holy name  
give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim  
aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne,  
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.

Opening Prayer

**Merciful God, we gather in Your presence remembering the stories of old, the story of Moses’ intercession and Your relenting love.  Like ancient Israel, we stumble and go astray, but You return us to the path with your boundless compassion.  So we lift to you our praise and thanksgiving for Your unwavering love and faithfulness.  Amen.**

Scripture Lesson Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord who is good;

whose steadfast love endures for ever!

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,

or show forth all God’s praise?

Blessed are they who observe justice,

Who do righteousness at all times!

Remember me, O Lord when you show favor to your people;

help me when you deliver them,

that I may see prosperity of your chosen ones;

that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,

that I may glory with your heritage.

They made a calf in Horeb

and worshiped a molten image.

They exchanged the glory of God

for the image of an ox that eats grass.

They forgot God, their Savior,

who had done great things in Egypt,

Wondrous works in the land of Ham,

and terrible things by the Red Sea.

Therefore the Lord intended to destroy them

had not Moses, his chosen one,

stood in the breach,

To turn away God’s wrath from destroying them.

**Music of Preparation** *Dona Nobis Pacem* arr: Sonja Poorman

The Chancel Choir

**Scripture Lesson** Exodus 32:1-14

Sermon Lost and Found

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we come before You as a wandering people, acknowledging our moments of doubt and waywardness. Like the Israelites of old, we've faltered as we’ve sought after fleeting idols, searching for security when answers are elusive, and craving certainty amid life's unknowns.  Forgive us, Lord.  Turn us back toward You.  Let us find refuge and strength in Your enduring grace as You grant us wisdom along this journey of life.  Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: God walked upon this earth

sharing our human life in Jesus Christ,

All: God has conquered sin and death forgiving us all

through Love and Grace

Leader: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, amen!

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen

\*Passing of the Peace

Stewardship Moment: Gary Jay will be speaking for

Stewardship

Invitation Offering

Offertory *It Is Well with My Soul* arr. Philip P. Bliss

Kathy Ferguson, piano

\*Doxology 95 *Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Sending Hymn 121 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

WELLESLEY

1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;

There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.

2. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!

There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;

and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

4. If our love were but more simple, we should rest up on God’s

word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our

Lord.

\*Benediction

**Go forth today as people caring for people that in living a life patterned after God’s grace, you may share the hope, joy, forgiveness, and love you receive from God with your**

**neighbors wherever you go!**

Adapted from work by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.

**Postlude**  *O For a Thousand Tongues* arr. Hayes & Gaspar

Kathy Ferguson, piano;

Janet Tolman, organ

Liturgist: Iris Washburn

Stephen Minister: Susan Schreiner

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

ONE LICENSE A-738133 | CCLI #12393 | Perform Music #662 | CVLI #03793174

“Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above*”*

Words: Johann J Schutz, 1675 trans by Frances E Cox, 1864(Dt. 32:3)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Words: Frederick W Faber, 1854

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