

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

OUR THEME: God's Word is our hope. We share our hope with a next generation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Amazing Love

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken,
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

Chorus

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do, to honor You

CALLING ON GOD

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD

P: We are all sinners, also in failing to challenge ourselves to keep learning more about our faith, so that we can share the Gospel more effectively with others.....

C: God, forgive our failure to learn and grow in our faith. Give us the strength of your Holy Spirit to be eager learners and to grow in our knowledge of your truth. We ask this so that we can share that truth with others.

SONG OF CONFESSION

Cares Chorus (two times)

I cast all my cares upon you.
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.

PRAYER FOCUS

P: Let us Pray.....Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone*

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does

injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18 *Paul encourages us to be of the same mind*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-27 *Jesus is questioned about his authority*

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Train Up A Child

Arranged by Pepper Choplin

SERMON

"One-Mindedness"

SERMON HYMN "Red Book" 135

Majesty

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne
unto His own who His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify. Come glorify Christ Jesus the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory power and praise.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died now glorified, King of all kings.

PASSING ON THE WORD

(All the children are invited forward for the passing out of Bibles. After the children receive they are invited to stay up front for a prayer.)

CREED

**C: We believe in God, the Creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God yet true man. He was crucified, died and was buried for our sin that we might be free and know the joy of life.
He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven, and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us. We believe in the church of God, the people of faith throughout the world. We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: **hear our prayer**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 260

PASS IT ON

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it you spread His Love to ev'ry one;
You want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing; The flowers, start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it you want to sing it's fresh like spring;
You want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him, It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know; The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on

I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know,
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

DISMISSAL