

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 26, 2016

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

**AS WE GATHER.....**Many of us were brought up being told, “Don’t be a follower!” There is wise truth to that in regards to choices we make, especially as youth. But the Lord turns that idea upside down for all people of all ages. He tells us to be a follower! Yet not following out of peer pressure or compulsion, but following where we know we are led to life, hope, and promise.

**RINGING OF THE BELL** (To prepare our hearts and minds for worship, we take a few moments in silence)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

### OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: Jesus says, “Follow me.”

**C: Often we are not quick to follow, or we choose to go our own way.**

P: Jesus looks at a lost world in need of witnesses and says, “Follow me.”

**C: We look at this lost world in need of grace, and we hesitate and shy away.**

P: Jesus knows the temptations and the decisions we face, and He says, “Follow me.”

**C: We falter on the way, we follow the ways of this world.**

P: Let us pray and silently confess our sins to God,

*Silence for reflection*

P: Lord God, You have called us to follow Your only-begotten Son, to learn from Him, to live and grow in Him, to tell others of Him, and to be faithful to Him.

**C: We sin against You and one another in thought, word and deed. We have become enslaved to those things around us and have failed to live in the freedom You have won for us. For the sake of Jesus, forgive us, and give us the clear vision of following Him through the confusion of this world, and bring us by faith to the promise of everlasting life in Your presence.**

P: Jesus says, “Follow me, “ and we follow Him as forgiven people with grace to do His will. “For freedom Christ has set us free;.....those who belong to Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Shine, Jesus Shine

Lord, the Light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display Your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....Gracious Lord, as we have been called to follow You, grant Your Spirit that we may daily know we have been set free from the slavery of sin. In response to Your liberating work for our lives now and eternally, grant us hearts to use our freedom to love and serve one another in Your name and to Your glory; through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:9b-21 (*Elijah reassured and the call of Elisha*)

Behold, the word of the Lord came to [Elijah], and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire, the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive you shall anoint Hazael to be king of Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

### Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (*Freedom in Christ and a response of faith and love toward others by the Spirit*)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

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. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62 *(The challenge of Jesus' call to follow)*

When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God."

### SERMON SONG "Red Book" 164

### 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 every one;  
You want to pass it on.

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 its fresh like spring;  
You want to pass it on.

I'll wish for you my friend this happiness 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

### SERMON

### "The Challenge of Following"

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." You have been baptized and trained in the Christian faith according to Jesus' command. Lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

**C: Yes, I do.**

P: Do you renounce the devil, all his works, and all his ways?

**C: Yes, I do.**

P: Do you believe in God, The Father Almighty?

**C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus, His only Son, our Lord?

**C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, the redeemer of my life.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one who calls and keeps me in the faith.**

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**C: I do, by the grace of God.**

## **CONFIRMATION VERSE AND WORD OF AFFIRMATION**

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

## **OFFERTORY**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have made us partakers of Your kingdom by faith. Keep us focused on the ultimate goal, that through witness and the working of Your Spirit many more may call upon Your name and rejoice in eternal true freedom with You, which has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Fill us with all the spiritual gifts for service in Your kingdom: love toward You and for one another; the joy and peace of knowing we belong to You; patience, kindness, and goodness in our dealings with our neighbors;; and faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our conduct. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Help us not to let past, forgiven sins exercise any power or control over or between us, and enable us to live in peace and freedom in Your name and in the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Guide and direct doctors, nurses, health-care workers, and first responders in our community that the sick and injured may receive Your healing, comfort and peace. Today we remember all those known and unknown to us in time of need, (especially.....). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: It is into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

### DISTRIBUTION

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 55

Great is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath pro vided  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love.

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath pro vided  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

**"Red Book" 119**

**Just as I Am**

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy Love,  
At the impulse of Thy Love,

Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice, and let me sing,  
Always, only, for my King,  
Always, only, for my King,

Take my will, and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**