

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 4, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER Jesus' words on the cost of discipleship were a wake-up call to His would-be followers. Many had been almost sleepwalking, watching Him from a distance. Now was the time to wake up to the reality of what it would mean to be counted among his disciples. In fact, by comparison to their commitment to follow Him, they would have to hate everyone and everything else. It would mean fighting against most of society, a difficult cross to bear. Jesus was echoing Moses' challenging words in the Old Testament Reading, to obey God's commandments, spoken just before the people would enter the Promised Land. Jesus was about to lead into our promised land, heaven itself, by His cross. Because we know the end of the story, how can we not respond to the gracious invitation to follow our Lord?

RINGING OF THE BELL (After the ringing of the bell, *in silence* we prepare our hearts for worship)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: Amen

WE CONFESS

P: When the people of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, as we will hear, Moses challenged them to obey the commandments, statutes, and rules of the Lord.

C: We confess that we have failed to obey in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Our hearts have turned away from God, our ears have become deaf to His Word, and we have put other things in His rightful place. Show us Your grace and mercy, Lord our God.

P: Moses invited the people to choose life, Paul urged freedom for a slave, and Jesus called everyone with ears to hear His Word.

C: But we are by nature sinners, incapable of choosing good without the help of our gracious God. For Jesus' sake, heavenly Father, forgive, renew, and strengthen us that we might faithfully follow our Savior in all that we think, do, and say.

Silence for reflection

P: God had promised the Israelites the Promised Land, and Jesus' carrying His cross through death to life has opened the door to the eternal promised land of heaven to all who call on Him for grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 “Red Book” 106

It Is Well.....

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, the trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't:
My sin not in part, but the whole
Is nail'd to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be roll'd back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so,” it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray..... O merciful Lord, Your Son has called us to follow no matter the cost.

C: Grant us open eyes to see beyond the cross to the promised land that awaits us because of His sacrifice on our behalf;

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 1 *The Man is Ever Blessed*

Reader: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.....nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

C: The man is ever blessed who shuns the sinners' ways; among their counsels never stands, nor takes the scornors' place,

Reader: But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law he meditates day and night.

C: But he makes the Law of God His study and delight; amid the labors of the day and watches of the night.

Reader: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

C: He is like a tree thriving.....with waters near the root; fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heavn'ly fruit.

Reader: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

C: Not so the wicked, they no such blessings find; their hopes shall flee like empty chaff before the driving wind.

Reader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

C: How will they bear to stand before the judgment seat where all the saints Christ's right hand in fully assembly meet?

Reader: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

C: He knows and He approves the way the righteous go; but sinners and their works shall meet a dreadful overthrow.

SECOND LESSON: Philemon 1-21 *Paul sends a slave to his master to live as a brother.*

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother.

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-35 *The cost of discipleship*

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

SERMON HYMN

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, fam'ly all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

SERMON

"Where am I planted?"

APOSTLE'S CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life + everlasting. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the Churches round the world, and all people in their various needs. We pray, heavenly Father, for those whose lives are difficult due to circumstances beyond their control, the effects of war and terror, the oppression from leaders, the results of drought and flood, disease and displacement, slavery and poverty. Give them courage and strength to endure. As fits Your gracious plans, bring them peace and security, food and shelter, health and home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We pray, Lord Jesus, for those who proclaim the Gospel and lead the Church here and around the world, pastors and teachers. In the face of indifference and opposition, keep them strong in the faith so that the Church may grow in grace and numbers until that day when You shall return at the end of all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We pray, Holy Spirit, for those who have let the world blind them to Your grace and mercy, whose lives are focused on wealth and power, prestige and reputation—people who rely on their own abilities and resources, who see the people around them as assets in attaining their personal goals. Use Your gracious Word and the events of their lives to open their eyes to see the futility of their minds and the abundance of Your many blessings. Bring them to repentant faith that we may rejoice together. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, hear our prayers for those near and dear to us who call out to You for relief, (including.....). Surround them with people of faith, good counselors, and compassionate caregivers. Use us and our resources to bring about the healing, dignity, and consoling they so desperately need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Loving Savior, we give thanks for the witness of those who have gone before us in the faith, Moses and Paul, and Your people of faith throughout the ages. Grant us so to follow You no matter the cost until we join them at Your eternal banquet. It is into Your hands, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Welcome to the celebration! God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience Your presence in bread and wine.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 181 Rock of Ages.....

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me
Hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed, be of
Sin the double cure, save me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labor of my hands, can fulfill
Thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow, all for
Sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring, simply
To Thy cross I cling; naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless look to Thee for grace; foul, I
To the fountain fly, wash me. Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my
Eyes shall close in death, which I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne, Rock of
Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

"Red Book" 98 In His Time

In his time, in his time, He makes all things beautiful, in his time
Lord please show my ev'ry day as you're teaching me your way,
That you do just what you say, in your time.

In your time, in your time, you make all things beautiful in your time,
Lord, my life to you I bring, May each song I have to sing,
Be to you a lovely thing, in your time.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

**"Red Book" 225 (Twice through) I Love You, Lord
I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice,
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.**

DISMISSAL