

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 2023**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Hob Pusey

There is none like you, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
**All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things,
you alone are God.**

—from Psalm 86:8-10, NRSV

! **Invocation**

Hob Pusey

God of goodness and grace, we long for your presence,
for the peace your promises bring, and for the assurances
we have received through the gift of your Son.
**May we, your people, this day and every day,
have open eyes to see and open ears to hear
your presence among us.**
Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord,
and prepare us for worship. **Amen.**

! **Hymn 92**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Confessing
*God invites us to be honest with Him***

Call to Confession

Hob Pusey

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or
poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Hob Pusey

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,
yet too often we practice pride.

You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,
yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.
 You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,
yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.
 You freely forgave and healed,
yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.
 You lived a perfectly holy life,
yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.
 You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,
yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.
 You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,
yet too often we deny you.
 You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.
Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon (*Responsively*)

Hob Pusey

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
 While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 —Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

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

Minute for Stewardship

Chris Adler

Invitation Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

—Matthew 6:19-20, NRSV

Offering

Offertory *Come Unto Jesus* *Kauflin, Merker, & Story*
 Greg Mauer

! 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

All good things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

! Praise Song *I Will Be Still*

Verse 1

*Though the earth give way, Though the mountains fall to the sea
Though its waters roar, I will cling to Thee*

Pre-Chorus

There is no fear as I look upon you

Chorus

*I will be still, I will be still
And know, and know, and know You are God.*

Verse 2

*Though the nations rage and creation yearns for the Lord,
Though the earth may melt, I'm forever yours.*

Pre-Chorus

There is no fear as I look upon you

Chorus

*I will be still, I will be still
And know, and know, and know You are God.*

Bridge

*Forever my refuge, forever my strength, forever my helper, forever
my friend!*

Pre-chorus

There is no fear, there is no fear, there is no fear, as I look upon You.

Chorus (2x)

I will be still, I will be still

And know, and know, and know You are God.

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Samaritan's Call

Celia Weber

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1-15

⁵ For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm, then, and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Take note! I, Paul, am telling you that if you get yourselves circumcised, Christ will not benefit you at all. ³ Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to do the entire law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we eagerly await through the Spirit, by faith, the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything; what matters is faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who prevented you from being persuaded regarding the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰ I myself am persuaded in the Lord you will not accept any other view. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. ¹¹ Now brothers and sisters, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² I wish those who are disturbing you might also let themselves be mutilated!

¹³ For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

Sermon

"Called to be Free"

Rev. Tim Latham

 **Hymn 284**

They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding *We respond to God's Word*

Profession of Faith (*Apostle's Creed*)

**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 buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Commissioning *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

Praise Song *Behold the Lamb*

*Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.*

*The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you
Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
paid the price to make us one.
So we share in the bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.*

*The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.
So share in the of bread of life,
and we drink of His sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.*

*And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond
And to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
around the table of the King.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**