

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
June 23, 2024**

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

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

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

**We gather, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,  
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

**We listen, alive to the Word of God.**

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,  
sometimes startling and unexpected,  
sometimes still and quiet,  
but always dwelling among us.

**We watch and wait for the Word of God.**

**! Invocation** (*Responsively*) *Bonnie Mecaughey*

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.**

**! Opening Hymn 10** *O Worship the King*

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

**Call to Confession** *Bonnie Mecaughey*

God's Word assures us:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our

sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

—based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed to be an obedient church:  
we have not done your will;  
we have broken your law;  
we have rebelled against your love;  
we have not loved our neighbors;  
we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Time for Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Come now, let us argue it out,  
says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

—Isaiah 1:18, NRSV

*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***

### **Invitation**

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;  
the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

## Offering

### Offertory

*The Wonder of It All*  
(Dennis Lesher, Dan Baker)

Shea

### ! 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

We are not our own; we belong to you.  
You have created us and given us life anew,  
O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer.

We extend our arms and open our hands  
to present our offerings to you.  
We make these gestures to display outwardly  
our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts.

Receive these gifts from us, O Triune God,  
and through them bring life and hope to many.  
In the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### ! Preparation Song

*The Blessing*

Verse (2 times)  
The Lord bless you and keep you,  
make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Chorus (2 times)  
Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

Bridge  
May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations  
and your fam'ly and your children and their children and their children.

May His presence go before you and behind you and beside you,  
All around you and within you. He is with you, hi is with you.

In the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going,  
In your weeping and rejoicing, He is for you, He is with you.

Verse  
Chorus

**Proclaiming**  
**God speaks to us through His Word**

**Scripture Reading**

*Genesis 14:8-24*

**14** In those days King Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Chedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim <sup>2</sup> waged war against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, and King Shemeber of Zeboiim, as well as the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). <sup>3</sup> All of these came as allies to the Siddim Valley (that is, the Dead Sea). <sup>4</sup> They were subject to Chedorlaomer for twelve years, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. <sup>5</sup> In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, <sup>6</sup> and the Horites in the mountains of Seir, as far as El-paran by the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> Then they came back to invade En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they defeated the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

<sup>8</sup> Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and lined up for battle in the Siddim Valley <sup>9</sup> against King Chedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. <sup>10</sup> Now the Siddim Valley contained many asphalt pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, but the rest fled to the mountains. <sup>11</sup> The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on. <sup>12</sup> They also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, for he was living in Sodom, and they went on.

<sup>13</sup> One of the survivors came and told Abram the Hebrew, who lived near the oaks belonging to Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner. They were bound by a treaty with Abram. <sup>14</sup> When Abram heard that his relative had been taken prisoner, he assembled his 318 trained men, born in his household, and they went in pursuit as far as Dan. <sup>15</sup> And he and his servants deployed against them by night, defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah to the north of Damascus. <sup>16</sup> He brought back all the goods and also his relative Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the other people.

<sup>17</sup> After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High. <sup>19</sup> He blessed him and said:

Abram is blessed by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
<sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High  
who has handed over your enemies to you.

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

<sup>21</sup> Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, but take the possessions for yourself."

<sup>22</sup> But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup> that I will not take a thread or sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so you can never say, 'I made Abram rich.' <sup>24</sup> I will take nothing except what the servants have eaten. But as for the share of the men who came with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre—they can take their share."

**Sermon**

*"A War, a Rescue, and a Great High Priest"*  
*Rev. Tim Latham*

 **Song of Response**

*Before The Throne of God Above*

*Verse 1*

*Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart*

*Chorus*

*Hallelujah  
My life is found in Jesus Christ  
Hallelujah  
For I am His and He is mine*

*Verse 2*

*When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me*

*Chorus*

*Verse 3*

*Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God*

*Chorus*

*Verse 4*

*I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down low  
And poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love*

Chorus

**Responding**  
***We respond to God's Word***

**! Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible.  
All things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

**Prayers of the People**

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

**! Commission Hymn 3**      *Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven*

**! Benediction & Blessing**

**! Postlude**