

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 28, 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

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
**for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**
Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

! Invocation

Bonnie Mecaughey

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.
We have come to listen to you,
to seek you, to worship you.
You are the beginning of all things,
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.
In you we become; in you we live.
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.
In you we hope; in you we live.
You are the source of serenity,
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.
In you we are still; in you we live.
Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.
Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. **Amen.**

! Opening Hymn 292

God of Grace and God of Glory

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Bonnie Mecaughey

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people
who have preferred our wills to his. Accepting his power to become

new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Bonnie Mecaughey

O Lord, our hearts are heavy with the violence of our world,
so much suffering through the ages,
wars and holocausts, genocide and abuse.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, you love and care for us as a parent;
you came to share life with us as a brother.
But we confess we have failed to live as your children
and instead have broken many bonds.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, you have called us to live together in community,
to consider one another as brother and sister,
regardless of ethnicity, economic status, or popularity.

Yet we prejudge one another,
refuse to love one another,
and victimize one another.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, giver of all life,
you fearfully and wonderfully made us
and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life.

Yet we endanger the lives of one another,
abuse the lives of young children among us,
destroy those who are defenseless,
and oppress those who are powerless.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

Pardon us through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Since we have now been justified by his blood,
how much more shall we be saved
from God's wrath through him!

—Romans 5:8-9, 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

Invitation As we come before God with our tithes and offerings, let us remember the words of Micah 6: What does the Lord require of us? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Thus we bring our money, gifts, and whole lives as an offering to our God.

Offering

Offertory *How Deep the Father's Love*
Kelly Fox

 **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 (Responsively)**

Dear God, wherever we look, from next door to a world away, we see the places where your creation groans. May these gifts be a faithful response to those cries. **Amen.**

 **Preparation Hymn 68** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Scripture Reading *Genesis 18:16-33*

¹⁶ The men got up from there and looked out over Sodom, and Abraham was walking with them to see them off. ¹⁷ Then the LORD said, "Should I hide what I am about to do from Abraham?" ¹⁸ Abraham is to become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹ For I have chosen him so that he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. This is how the LORD will fulfill to Abraham what he promised him." ²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious. ²¹ I will go down to see if what they have done justifies the cry that has come up to me. If not, I will find out."

²² The men turned from there and went toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Abraham stepped forward and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away instead of sparing the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people who are in it? ²⁵ You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. You could not possibly do that! Won’t the Judge of the whole earth do what is just?”

²⁶ The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷ Then Abraham answered, “Since I have ventured to speak to my lord—even though I am dust and ashes— ²⁸ suppose the fifty righteous lack five. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

²⁹ Then he spoke to him again, “Suppose forty are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it on account of forty.”

³⁰ Then he said, “Let my lord not be angry, and I will speak further. Suppose thirty are found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

³¹ Then he said, “Since I have ventured to speak to my lord, suppose twenty are found there?”

He replied, “I will not destroy it on account of twenty.”

³² Then he said, “Let my lord not be angry, and I will speak one more time. Suppose ten are found there?”

He answered, “I will not destroy it on account of ten.” ³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

Sermon

*“The World is Broken”
Rev. Tim Latham*

Song of Response

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Chorus

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more*

Verse 1

*We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up*

Verse 2

*In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength*

Verse 3

*Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

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

**Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord!**

—from Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

! **Commission 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

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**