



Order of Worship – Sunday, September 20, 2020 – 11:00 AM

(16th Sunday after Pentecost)

Cherie Brooks, Director of Music and Media Producer

***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.***

Gathering music – as people get connected
Katie Wynkoop

Welcome! – Rev. Jon Carlisle, Covenant Presbyterian's Gap Pastor

As water is poured into the baptismal font, remember Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman. In the middle of a hot day, he greets a foreign woman and treats her with love and acceptance. ...*Whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life* (John 4:14)

Prayer of Invocation

Piano Prelude –

a time of meditation, preparing our hearts to be open to God
Katie Wynkoop

Responsive Call to Worship Psalm 8 – Leslie Brandt PSALMS/NOW) Jude McLean, Liturgist

Leader: O God, how full of wonder and splendor You are!

Response: I see the reflections of Your beauty and hear the sounds of Your majesty wherever I turn.

Leader: Even the babbling of babes and the laughter of children spell out Your name in indefinable syllables.

Response: When I gaze into star-studded skies and attempt to comprehend the vast distances,

Leader: I contemplate in utter amazement my Creator's concern for me.

Response: I am dumfounded that You should care personally about me.

Leader: O God, how full of wonder and splendor You are! Let us worship God.

Hymn of Praise – # 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Whitney Dodds

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,

and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Call to Confession – by Madeline L'Engle

Listen to a child's prayer. Why, Lord, is it so hard to say "I'm sorry" after saying "It's not my fault. My sister made me?" I was angry all afternoon with my sister, with everybody, with myself. Then I said "I'm sorry." Now I'm happy with (my sister), with myself and with you, Lord. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Confession – Psalm 141 from Leslie Brandt

O God, I come to you in sorrow and shame. I spoke in my own defense today and uttered words that knifed their way into the heart of my friend, and this created a great rift between us. I hurt the one I love. Heal the hurt of my friend, O Lord, and heal the sickness within my heart that forced my foolish tongue into such irresponsible actions. I come to claim Your loving mercy. I pray, as well, that you grant my friend the grace to forgive me. May Your Spirit who abides in my heart curb and control my rebellious tongue and teach me to speak words that give life and promote love in this hate-ridden world. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon – from *Liturgy of the Hours*

By the tender mercies of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, giving light to all of us who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and guiding our feet into the way of peace. In Jesus Christ and because of his unconditional love, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Invitation to pass the peace – Learn how to pass the peace of Christ during a pandemic!
Passing of the Peace – as taught by Maeleah Carlisle (Rev. Carlisle's niece)

Reading from the Old Testament – Genesis 50:15-21- Joseph and his brothers

Talk with Children – Erin Wise, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35 – Jesus' teaching on forgiveness

Sermon – **The Road to Hell**

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good in order to preserve...(Gen 50:19-20) and 'Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'
(Matthew 18:33)

When I decide not to be God in my relationships, I can forgive others.
When "the quality of mercy is not strained" I can live with others.

Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Musical offering -

Campanile Bell Choir Nancy Davidson, Director

Call to Stewardship

Every week our church receives the tithes and offerings of our members. As a result, lives are changed in our community. We are working side by side as disciples of Jesus Christ to follow his commandments we heard in last week's sermon -

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Lord, we trust You to use our gifts to make this world a better place to live. Empower the dollars to become acts of compassion to make a difference for the better. Thank you for letting us invest in our mission, programs, building and staff. We give thanks for the ministry and work of Cherie, Katie, Erin, Laurie, Ingrid, Lisa, Brian, Caroline and our other workers and all of our volunteers who love to serve you through this church. We dedicate our gifts for your work through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 67 (Psalm 89) stanzas 1-3 Whitney Dodds

My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;
your faithful love will I proclaim, and every age shall know your name.
I sing of mercies that endure, forever firm, forever sure,
a strong support that never dies, established changeless in the skies
Almighty God, your lofty throne has justice for its cornerstone,
and shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Katie Wynkoop

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