

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024 10 AM
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MARK 6:30-34, 53-56



ST. JOHN
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Ushers –

(NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

*Please stand if comfortably able
and respond with words in bold print

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

PRELUDE: “Poeme” Esther Higgins

PENNIES FOR MISSION: Hoyleton Ministries

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

(Inspired by Psalm 89)

One: Holy One is with us. God’s hand remains with us.

Many: God’s love is steadfast. God’s strength is enough. We can rest in God’s presence.

One: Holy Love keeps their covenant from generation to generation and establishes our future.

Many: God’s love is steadfast. God’s strength is enough. We can rest in God’s presence.

One: Let us worship God together and praise the Holy Name!

Many: God’s love is steadfast. God’s strength is enough. We can rest in God’s presence.

***INVOCATION:**

Wonderful Creator, you come to us with power and gentleness, strength and compassion, peace and joy. We come to you with hope and hopelessness, love and heartbreak, thanksgiving and lament. You fortify us as we go on our journey, assured of your presence and renewed by your love. Give us rest in our coming and our going. Give us joy in ministering in your

name. May our worship restore our soul as we dwell in your presence. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: 286 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”**

***UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:**

Holy God, we confess that our lives keep us consumed more with doing than with being. We trust in the chariots and horses of our times—our tools, our schemes, our positions. We acknowledge that you call us to rest in your truth, your love, and your peace without abdicating our responsibility to embody your good news in the world. We struggle to balance the rhythms of rest and renewal in our lives and seek your guidance and direction toward a life where you are our peace, our hope, and our standard. Guide us on this path, we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE:**

Beloved, you do not journey alone. In community with the Holy One and one another, we find grace and strength to heed the call to discipleship. In Christ, we carry the good news and reflect a God who is near to us, faithful to redeem, and affirms our rest and renewal.

***GLORIA:**

**Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice)
(end) One God always here. One God always here.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
(From the Message)**

GOD’S Covenant with David

7 ¹⁻² Before long, the king made himself at home and GOD gave him peace from all his enemies. Then one day King David said to Nathan the prophet, “Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent.”

³ Nathan told the king, “Whatever is on your heart, go and do it. GOD is with you.”

⁴⁻⁷ But that night, the word of GOD came to Nathan saying, “Go and tell my servant David: This is GOD’S word on the matter: You’re going to build a ‘house’ for me to live in? Why, I haven’t lived in a ‘house’ from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now. All that time I’ve moved about with nothing but a tent. And in all my travels with Israel, did I ever say to any of the leaders I commanded to shepherd Israel, ‘Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar?’

⁸⁻¹¹ “So here is what you are to tell my servant David: The GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies has this word for you: I

took you from the pasture, tagging along after sheep, and made you prince over my people Israel. I was with you everywhere you went and mowed your enemies down before you. Now I'm making you famous, to be ranked with the great names on earth. And I'm going to set aside a place for my people Israel and plant them there so they'll have their own home and not be knocked around any more. Nor will evil men afflict you as they always have, even during the days I set judges over my people Israel. Finally, I'm going to give you peace from all your enemies.

¹¹⁻¹⁶ "Furthermore, GOD has this message for you: GOD himself will build you a house! When your life is complete and you're buried with your ancestors, then I'll raise up your child, your own flesh and blood, to succeed you, and I'll firmly establish his rule. He will build a house to honor me, and I will guarantee his kingdom's rule permanently. I'll be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I'll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never remove my gracious love from him, as I removed it from Saul, who preceded you and whom I most certainly did remove. Your family and your kingdom are permanently secured. I'm keeping my eye on them! And your royal throne will always be there, rock solid."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 89:20-37 Page 678

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 2:11-22

The reconciliation of God's people

¹¹ So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. ¹² At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. ¹³ But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. ¹⁵ He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. ¹⁶ He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

¹⁷ When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. ¹⁸ We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. ¹⁹ So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. ²⁰ As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets

with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

***GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

Jesus feeds five thousand people

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹ Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” ³² They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place. ³³ Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. ³⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

Healings at Gennesaret

⁵³ When Jesus and his disciples had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret, anchored the boat, ⁵⁴ and came ashore. People immediately recognized Jesus ⁵⁵ and ran around that whole region bringing sick people on their mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he went—villages, cities, or farming communities—they would place the sick in the marketplaces and beg him to allow them to touch

even the hem of his clothing. Everyone who touched him was healed.

These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

MESSAGE: “Theology of Interruptions”

Poor Jesus. All he wanted was some time alone with his disciples. They had just returned from their mission trips and they were excited to tell Jesus all about it. Their enthusiasm was a blessing to Jesus. He hoped that they would always be so passionate and excited about serving God’s people. Jesus wanted to reward them with a little break. He suggested they find a lonely and private place for their retreat. Unfortunately, the crowds of people searching for Jesus followed them.

Was Jesus upset or angry? No but perhaps a little disappointed. Jesus felt sorry for them. They were mostly people from the villages, although perhaps a few village officials and rabbis were within their mist. They were all searching for something. They were like lost sheep in search of direction. (Just like us today.)

What were the disciples thinking at this point? Do you think the crowds frightened them? The crowds could be seen as a mob, crushing in on them. They seemed to be thirsty for whatever Jesus could give them. (It’s a good thing there were no paparazzi

around, like the celebrities have to put up with today. They are photographers and journalists who are looking for a “scoop” for their editors so they could make good money on. They are hungry for money and do anything it takes to get the best picture. The crowd in front of Jesus seemed like that.)

But what did the crowd want? I imagine most of them wanted to be healed from different maladies. There was no such thing as emergency rooms or clinics or doctors or medicine to help these people. Jesus was the only one they knew who could heal them.

I wonder what the people did after they were healed? Did they hang around to hear Jesus’ message or did they just head for home to boast about what Jesus did for them so others could run to him and increase the size of the crowd. Perhaps they had no food and they had heard about the loaves and fishes he had produced magically.

To most of the people he was the best magician they had ever seen. They pushed and shoved and crowded to get a better look at him. They wanted more and more. Always taking from Jesus. Probably never giving Jesus anything.

That brings us back to us. Think about it? Do we just take and take and take whatever Jesus can give us? We pray over and over for things we want? Do we thank Jesus afterwards? I hope so.

Do we ever give anything to Jesus and if so, what do we give? What can we give Jesus to thank him for all he does for us? What would be appropriate? Write something in your bulletin and leave it on the table in the narthex on your way out. Let me know what you think? Don’t sign them. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square

PASTORAL PRAYER:

God of crisis, God of everyday, God of eternity, we prefer the view of beauty around us, but we are grateful for warning signs that make us more attentive to the hazards of a careless road of life. We give thanks for all who have set an example for us of certainty and assurance amid trouble, conflict, and disaster. In emulating them, when the end of the journey comes for us, we will rejoice.

Sovereign God, you have called us to pray not only for ourselves but for all humanity. We pray for your church everywhere in the world that all your people may pray without ceasing, using whatever name for God they wish.

Bless all those people in government and positions of authority that they may govern with clarity and charity. Sustain all who give themselves to serve those in need; those who teach immigrants, social workers who care for the poor and the those who are

unable to care for themselves, church visitors who attend to shut-ins and those who send them cards. Bless all our clinics, nursing homes, hospitals, and health services that your work of healing may continue among us.

We pray all these things in the name of the one who taught us to pray . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: 774

**Shepherd, lead, lead me in your righteousness,
Make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, God, you, God only,
Who makes me to lie down in safety.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY:

A faithful life reflects a spirit of generosity born from trusting God who provides and replenishes our resources. God's creation is abundant so that all needs will be met when we share the gifts we have

been given. Let our giving reflect our gratitude and commitment to beloved community.

OFFERTORY: "People Need the Lord"

Phill McHugh and Greg Nelson

***DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Generous God, we give these gifts to you through this faith community. May you lead and guide us with discernment so that our ministry would give you glory, honor your name, and benefit your creation. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: 571**

"O God of Love, O God of Peace"

***BENEDICTION:**

In your coming and going, may you encounter Jesus on the journey. In your coming and going, may you touch the source of power and healing. In your coming and going, may you find rest. Come and go in peace.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

POSTLUDE: “Unto Thee Do We Give Thanks”

James Denton