

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

God be with you.

And also with you!

* Call to Worship

Almighty and loving God, you have given us eyes to see the sunlight that fills our worship space; give us the inward vision to behold you in this place. You have made us feel the wind upon our limbs, help us to sense your presence as we bow to worship you.

* Opening Song: "Listen God is Calling"

Lift Up Your Hearts #753

(Leader) Listen.

(People) Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

*Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news
that he came to save us; he set us free.*

Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Let none be forgotten through-out the world.

Go to every nation, go and baptize.

Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

*Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,
walking in your footsteps, led by your Word.*

Let none be forgotten through-out the world.

Go to every nation, go and baptize.

Listen. Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

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* Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

God's Will for Our Lives : *Our World Belongs to God*, "The Mission of God's People", Section 44

Following the apostles, the church is sent-

sent with the gospel of the kingdom to make disciples of all nations,

to feed the hungry, and to proclaim the assurance that in the name of Christ

there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe-

to tell the news that our world belongs to God. In a world estranged from God,

where millions face confusing choices,

this mission is central to our being, for we announce the one name that saves.

We repent of leaving this work to a few, we pray for brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith,

and we rejoice that the Spirit is waking us to see our mission in God's world.

God's words of Assurance

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have obtained access to his grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Song of Response: "Change My Heart, O God"

Sing! A New Creation #56

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O god; may I be like you.

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Daniel 6

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. ¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed." ¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not

sleep. ¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." ²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! ²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Message: "Rescued from Lions"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

* Song of Response: "Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" *Lift Up Your Hearts #796*

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast unmeasured, boundless free!

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love--

Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus--spread his praise from shore to shore!

How he loves us, ever loves us, changes never, never more!

How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;

How for them he's interceding, watching o'er them from the throne!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!

'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus--'tis a heaven of heavens to me;

And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: "To God Be the Glory" *Lift Up Your Hearts #956*

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,

To God be the glory, for the things he has done!

With his blood he has saved me,

With his power he has raised me

To God be the glory for the things he has done!

* Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

Message: Tyler Helfers

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Pam Voss and Rex DeBruin