

WORSHIP SERVICE
October 4, 2020
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
All Nations Heritage Sunday

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

Christ be with you.

And also with you!

* Call to Worship (Psalm 24:1-6)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it on the seas

and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

* Opening Song: "All Are Welcome"

Lift Up Your Hearts #269

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,

where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:

a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

* Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

A Litany for All Nations Heritage Week (from *Our World Belongs to God*)

In our world, bent under the weight of sin, Christ gathers a new community.

**Satan and his evil forces seek whom they may confuse and swallow;
but Jesus builds his church, his Spirit guides, and grace abounds.**

The church is the fellowship of those who confess Jesus as Lord.

**She is the Bride of Christ, his chosen partner, loved by Jesus and loving him:
delighting in his presence, seeking him in prayer, silent before the mystery of his love.**

Our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished in the fellowship of congregations

**where God's name is praised, his Word proclaimed, his way taught;
where sins are confessed, prayers and gifts are offered, and sacraments are celebrated.**

The Spirit empowers each member to take part in the ministry of all,

so that hurts are healed and all may rejoice in the life and growth of the fellowship.

The church is a gathering of forgiven sinners, called to be holy, dedicated to service.

Saved by the patient grace of God, we deal patiently with others.

**Knowing our own weakness and failures, we bring good news to all sinners
with understanding of their condition, and with hope in God.**

*We grieve that the church which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and spans all time, place, race,
and language has become a broken communion in a broken world.*

**When we struggle for the purity of the church and for the righteousness God demands,
we pray for saintly courage.**

When our pride or blindness blocks the unity of God's household, we seek forgiveness.

**We marvel that the Lord gathers the broken pieces to do his work,
and that he blesses us still with joy, new members, and surprising evidences of unity.**

We commit ourselves to seeking and expressing the oneness of all who follow Jesus.

Song of Response: "The Church's One Foundation"

Lift Up Your Hearts #251

The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation, by water and the Word;
from heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Tho' with a scornful wonder, the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Message: "Melting Pot"

Prayer of Application

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S COVENANT WITH US

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Supper

- * Song of Response: "Here from All Nations" (stanzas 1-3)

Lift Up Your Hearts #490

Here from all nations, all tongues, and all peoples, countless the crowd but their voices are one.

Vast is the sight and majestic their singing: "God has the victory: he reigns from the throne!"

These have come out of the great tribulation; now they may stand in the presence of God, serving their Lord day and night in his temple, ransomed and cleansed by the Lamb's precious blood.

Gone is their thirst and no more shall they hunger; God is their shelter, his power at their side.

Sun shall not pain them, no burning will torture; Jesus the Lamb is their shepherd and guide.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

- * Blessing

- * Song of Response: "Here from All Nations" (stanzas 4-5)

Lift Up Your Hearts #490

He will go with them to clear living water flowing from springs which his mercy supplies.

Gone is their grief, and their trials are over. God wipes away every tear from their eyes.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and power be to the Savior again and again.

Might and thanksgiving and honor forever be to our God: Alleluia! Amen.

- * Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Keyboard: Sue Bokhoven