

A SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER
Seventeenth Week After Pentecost
September 16, 1986

Prayer

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things.
Place in our hearts the love of your name; help us to sustain and increase
our faith; nourish us with your goodness, and keep us forever in your great
mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Organ Prelude (a time for silence and meditation)

*Call to Worship (Psalm 62)

L: For God alone my soul waits in silence; from God comes my salvation.

P: GOD ONLY IS MY ROCK AND MY SALVATION, MY FORTRESS; MY REFUGE IS GOD.

*Responsive Invocation

L: Who are we today?

P: WE ARE A COMMUNITY, CALLED TO LEAD THE CHURCH INTO A SERVICE OF LOVE AND UNDER-
STANDING, A BOND OF JOY AND PEACE, CELEBRATING THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD IS WITH
US TO STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN US IN OUR MISSION.

L: What is our purpose for gathering here?

P: WE HAVE COME TO SHARE. WE COME TO SHARE OUR SORROWS AND FRUSTRATION, TO GAIN
STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD, TO BE EQUIPPED TO BE GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE...
TO BRING HOPE TO THE DOWNHEARTED, AND SIGHT TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN DARKNESS.

L: What are the problems that we face?

P: WE STRUGGLE AGAINST MANY THINGS, THE BONDAGE OF PREJUDICE, THE PARALYZING EFFECTS
OF SELF-DOUBT, AND THE IDLENESS OF SOCIETY. WE ARE BOTHERED BY THE PERSECUTION
OF PEOPLE IN ANY PART OF THIS WORLD, BY THE POVERTY OF MIND AND SPIRIT, AND THE
INDIFFERENCE OF MANY AROUND US.

L: Are we able, as followers of Christ, to undertake these tasks?

P: WE ARE NOT ABLE IN AND OF OURSELVES, BUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SPIRIT OF
CHRIST AND WITH THE FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE WHO SHARE OUR FRUSTRATIONS AND OUR
DREAMS WE ARE ABLE.

L: How then can this community celebrate in truth and love?

P: WE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO THE ONE WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME.

*Hymn No. 401 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Charles Wesley

*Psalm 61 (an antiphonal recitation)

Side 1: Hear my cry, O God,

Side 2: and listen to my prayer.

Side 1: I will call upon you from the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart,

Side 2: Set me upon the rock that is higher than I.

Side 1: For you have been my refuge,

Side 2: a strong tower against the enemy.

Side 1: I will dwell in your house forever;

Side 2: I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.

Side 1: For you, O God, have heard my vows;

Side 2: you have granted me the heritage of those who fear your Name.

Side 1: Add length of days to the King's life;

Side 2: let his years extend over many generations.

Side 1: Let him sit enthroned before God for ever;

Side 2: bid love and faithfulness watch over him.

Side 1: So will I always sing the praise of your Name,

Side 2: and day by day I will fulfill my vows.

Readings from the Daily Office

Job 40 1, 41:1-11

John 12 9-19

Homily

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn No. 262 "Talk with Us, Lord"

Charles Wesley

*Dismissal

L Hear our cry, O God, listen to our prayers,

P FROM THE END OF THE EARTH WE CALL TO THEE.

L May the God of Hope fill us all with joy and peace,

P THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Preacher
Liturgist
Reader
Organist

David Matzko
Helene Milner
Donnell Jefferies
David Arcus