

# THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 27, 2019

Worship Focus

**WELCOME HOME:**

**The Need for Christian Community**

WELCOME  
*Home*

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# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

## OPENING HYMN

365 – Love Divine, All Love Excelling

*The choir will sing verse two.*



1 Love di - vine, all love ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
3 Sanc - ti - fy your new cre - a - tion; Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down, Fix in us your hum - ble  
and O - me - ga be. End of faith as its be -  
spot - less let us be. Let us trust your great sal -



dwell - ing, All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
va - tion, Won for us on Cal - va - ry,



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion, Bound - less  
We would ev - er seek your bless - ing, Serve you  
Till we lay our crowns be - fore you, Till in



mer - cy from a - bove. Vis - it us with ben - e -  
as your hosts a - bove, Pray and praise you with - out  
heav'n we take our place, Till in glo - ry we a -



dic - tion; Com - fort us with heav'n - ly love.  
ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your per - fect love.  
dore you, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, adapt., alt.  
Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87.

## INVOCATION

**Minister** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M** God has called us to live as family. Yet, our love for God and for each other is not what it should be. Our priorities and choices are often flawed. But the power of God's love enables us to live a new life. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them.**  
**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

**M** Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

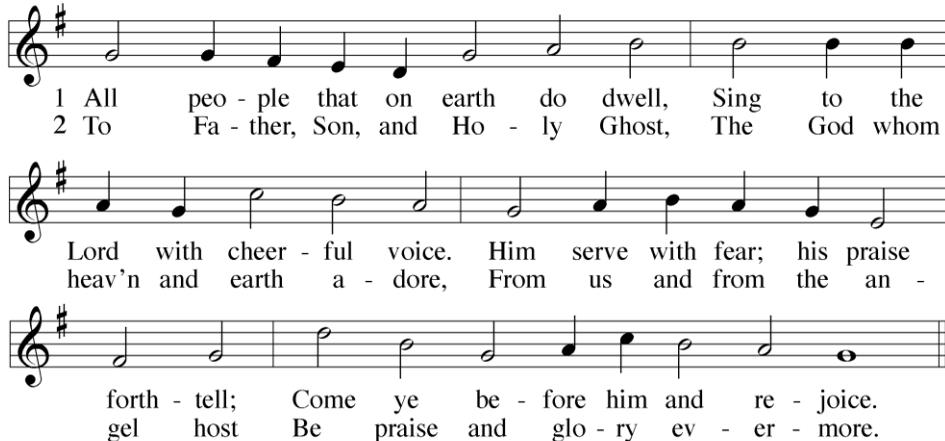
**C** **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt.**  
**Help me to live faithfully as part of your family.**

**M** God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and empowers us to be his people. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



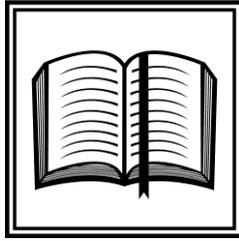
1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
2 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom  
Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise  
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -  
forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - jice.  
gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
preserve the family of believers with your never-failing mercy.  
Bind us together with the bond of your love.  
Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful,  
and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation;  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## THE WORD

### **FIRST LESSON** Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Scripture says that people are not wired to be rugged individuals. God created us to need one another. Two are better than one. Even better is having Christ as the third strand within a relationship. He provides the love and grace that keeps that bond strong.

ECCLESIASTERS 4:<sup>7</sup> Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> There was a man all alone;  
he had neither son nor brother.  
There was no end to his toil,  
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.  
“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,  
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”  
This too is meaningless—  
a miserable business!

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:

<sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.

<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?

<sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered,  
two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

# PSALM

# Psalm 133

*Psalm 133—How Very Good and Pleasant: Refrain © Barbara Boertje;  
refrain setting and verse music © Dale Witte.  
Verse text © Dale Witte and Kira Frederick. Used by permission.*

## Choir: *Refrain*

How ver-y good and pleas-ant— when we live in un-i-ty. It is like pre-cious  
oil, like fresh morn-ing dew. We gath-er here to- geth-er— with our  
hearts and voic-es raised to God, who's the cen-ter— of our un-i-ty and praise!

Choir *Together, together we lift our voices to the Lord.  
Together, together we shout our praise to his name.*

## ALL **Refrain**

Choir *Through water and his Word the Spirit makes us family.  
Salvation and new life are ours to share with everyone.*

## ALL **Refrain**

Choir *You servants of the Lord, now in his house lift up your hands and praise  
the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.*

## ALL **Refrain**

## SECOND LESSON Hebrews 2:9-18

Jesus became our brother so that by his suffering, death and resurrection he might unite us to himself and knit us together into a spiritual family

<sup>Hebrews 2:9</sup> But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.



## **GOSPEL** Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus wants us in his family so that he might give us rest and peace

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

<sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**M** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!



HYMN OF THE DAY

532 - God Is Here! As We His People



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -  
 Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the  
 Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the  
 preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in  
 Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it  
 ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
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Tune: IN BABILONE (87 87 D) *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710.

## **SERMON**

Hebrews 11:32-40

### **Find Rest in the Word**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

**GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

**MUSICAL OFFERTORY**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

Lord, continue to raise up witnesses in this and every place to faithfully proclaim Your Word. Let Your Church continue to be the good soil that produces wheat for Your harvest. Bless all our pastors and church workers as they sow in the fields that You have given them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in Your hands, and only You know what is to come. Remove from us fear of the unknown and the trepidation that uncertainly brings. Keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all, bless our nation and its citizens. Give us good leadership, satisfying work, loving families, and a quiet and peaceable life that glorifies Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The whole earth is Yours, O Lord, and You have charged us with its care. Make us good stewards of Your creation until that time when You set it free from its bondage to decay and give it to us anew in the kingdom of Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, look over the sick and all who suffer from any malady of mind or body. [*We intercede this morning particularly for \_\_\_\_\_.*] Give them patience and endurance in their trials and, if it be Your will, return them to health. Be especially with those who live in nursing homes and care facilities. Give them an unflinching faith in You and a lively hope for the redemption that You promise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We join our prayer with the unending prayers of those who have gone before us and are now with You. Together the Church in heaven and the Church on earth await the time when the righteous will shine like the sun in Your Kingdom, O Father, for You live and reign with Your Son and Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

The  
LORD'S  
Prayer

## SERMON HYMN

533 – I Love Your Kingdom, Lord



1 I love your king - dom, Lord, The place  
2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize  
3 I love your Church, O God, Your saints  
4 For them my tears shall fall; For them  
5 Sure as your truth shall last, To Zi -



of your a - bode, The Church our blest Re -  
its heav'n - ly ways, Its sweet com - mun - ion,  
in ev - 'ry land, Dear as the ap - ple  
my prayers as - cend; For them my cares and  
on shall be giv'n The bright - est glo - ries



deem - er saved With his own pre - cious blood.  
sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.  
of your eye And grav - en on your hand.  
toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.  
earth can yield And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, abr., alt.

Tune: ST. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731–76.

## PRAYER

**M** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



Behold,  
how good and  
how pleasant it  
is for brethren  
to dwell together  
in unity!

Psalm 133:1

## CLOSING HYMN

Oh, How Good It Is

*Oh, How Good It Is: © 2012 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) (admin. by Music Services) / Parakeet Boots Music (ASCAP) (admin. by Getty Music Publishing c/o Music Services) / Townend Songs (PRS) (admin. in North America by Music Services and elsewhere by Song Solutions) All Rights Reserved.*



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God  
 2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share  
 3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand



dwells to - geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty.  
 to re - joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn.  
 to pre - fer one a - noth - er, for - give as he for - gives.



Where the bonds of peace, of ac - cep - tance and love  
 For the weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace  
 When we live as one we all share in the love



are the fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.  
 when we of - fer the bles - sing of be - long - ing.  
 of the Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.



*Refrain*

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord; and with one heart we'll



live out his Word. Till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has



come for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

*After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.*

## OUR WORSHIP SERIES

In this worship series, we will look at how our Father knits us together in love and unity into a spiritual family. We will see the benefits of being part of this family. In the Church, Christ has given us a better home.

### WELCOME HOME!

*Our Need for Christian Community*

*You Are Free to Be Yourself*

*You Are Perfectly Safe Here*

*You Have an Everlasting Family*

*You are Part of Christ's Glorious  
Kingdom*

## OUR THEME FOR TODAY

“Army of One” was the shortest-lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual. The Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly because they realized it was contrary to the reality that, in the army, you are completely reliant upon your team. In a stressful situation, the individual can be overwhelmed. He or she needs others. God knows this. The first time God looked at Creation and noticed something was off, the issue was that an individual (Adam) was isolated. “It is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Humans are hardwired by God to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So, God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, may God bless you as you listen to his Word today. May he help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need.

Welcome home!