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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Prelude** *Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young

**Call to Worship**

One: From whirlwind and burning bush, in still of night and in sheer silence

**All: God calls the faithful to sacred work.**

One: Beckoning us to turn aside, inviting us to stand on holy ground

**All: God welcomes the faithful into sacred space.**

One: Come, God is calling. Let us worship the Lord!

**Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.  
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.  
Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.  
Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

**Prayer of Confession**

**Compassionate God, you hear the cries of the oppressed and call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good, to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love. We admit to being afraid to confront powers that privilege some and diminish others. We fear losing the security we enjoy. Forgive us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our eyes to look upon neighbors in need, and our hearts to respond with compassion, that we might follow the way of Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**New Testament Reading:** Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take

thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Homily** "Evil for Evil?"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

**Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one Triune God, the holy one of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Offering** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Richard Walters

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing. Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy never ceasing. Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee;  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart. O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Flor Peeters



**Remember in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Health concerns:** Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Joannie King; Harvey Coe (Brett Coe's father); Imelda Carrillo and daughter Serena; Baywood Crossing residents and staff; Ronny Carter (Betty Pendleton's cousin); Joan Gibertini's grandson Johnathan Hackney, and son Tim Tovey; Ron Grimes (Thelma Jean Paradysz's son-in-law); Adan Afzal (Uzma Aroog Dean's 12 year old cousin); Janet Smith; Liz Reed.

**Emergency Contact for each member needed for our church records.**

We are updating our records and want to have an emergency contact for everyone. Please contact the church at 281-991-8700 (*leave a message*) or email at office@fpcpasadena.org with your designated Emergency Contact. All information will be kept confidential. Thanks!

**FPC Ministries and Groups Zoom Videoconference Meetings.** We have held several Zoom meetings with good success! To arrange a meeting with your ministry or group, contact Barbara to schedule a Zoom videoconference at [office@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:office@fpcpasadena.org).