
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Prelude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Flor Peeters

Call to Worship

One: Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

All: Who is like the Lord?

One: Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

All: Who is like the Lord?

One: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

All: Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!**Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we fall short of your will for us and for patience when we stubbornly turn away from you. We confess to being slow to show the same mercy to others. We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. Help us strive to be more faithful, Lord. Make us more loving. We kneel before you, asking for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows from us in acts of love. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon**Sharing the Peace of Christ****Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading:** Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hymn *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Homily "Extravagant Forgiveness"

The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

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

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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. Amen.

Offering *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

arr. Earlene Rentz

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Sweet hour of prayer that calls me from a world of care
and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer thy wings shall my petition bear
to Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word, and trust His grace.
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *How Firm A Foundation*

Gilbert Martin



Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; 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); Roy Kreitz; Mary Knapik; Fred (Betty & Ronnie Pendleton's grandson); Joan Keith; Rachel Robertson; Melba Slaven; Jerry Gay; Kevin Smith

Those serving in the Military: Matthew Knapik

Loss of loved one: Jimmy Gilchrest Family

Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at fpcpasadena.org and FPC September Newsletter

Today, September 13 - Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary and Professor of New Testament, will be preaching for our virtual service.

Mission & Outreach Ministry meets Monday, October 14 at 7 pm on Zoom. Contact Bonnie Keith at bonniejkeith@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Brown Bag and Bible this Wednesday, September 16 at 12:00 pm. Make your lunch, grab your Bible, and click the link for this Zoom meeting. If you are not on Fairfax's email list and want to be a part of the Bible study, please email Fairfax at revfair@fpcpasadena.org to add your name. A **Zoom** link was sent by email blast on 9/10/2020. If needed, contact the church office for Zoom link at office@fpcpasadena.org.

Wonderful Wednesday THIS Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 pm. Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez, who are married, PC(USA) mission co-workers serving in the Philippines, will be the virtual speakers. They help global partners address issues of forced migration and human trafficking. Cathy and Juan focus their vision on people whose dreams have been denied. Hear their personal stories and how it has translated into becoming mission partners. A **Zoom** link for Wonderful Wednesday was sent by email blast on 9/10/2020. If needed, contact the church office for Zoom link at office@fpcpasadena.org. To read more about Cathy and Juan go to:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/the-purple-notebook/>

Sunday, September 20 - Virtual worship service with communion in your home using your own communion elements (a sip of wine or juice and piece of bread or cracker).

Flu Shot Clinic - October 5 - 1:30-3:30 pm - A Flu Shot Clinic will be provided by Walgreens Pharmacy. (Covid precautions will be taken.) Drive through in front of the church. Everyone is welcome from ages 7 years and up. For more information and a Consent for Vaccination form, go to the September Newsletter. **Forms must be returned to the church (secure mail box) or to Nola Bray via email by September 20.**

October 4 at 10:00 am- Drive in Worship - We will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of FPC and World Communion Sunday. We will also be receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering. A Congregational Meeting to elect officers will follow the worship service.

FPC Ministries and Groups Zoom Videoconference Meetings. To schedule a Zoom videoconference meeting with your ministry or group, contact Barbara at office@fpcpasadena.org.

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!