

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

Paul Manz

Call to Worship

One: Draw near to the Lord, who hears our pleas and our praise.

All: We come to rest in God's holy presence.

One: Here is bread that the Lord provides; here is manna to nourish our souls.

All: We gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.

One: Remember the Lord's wonderful works each evening; see God's glory with the morning's light.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord!**Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,

and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, your generosity surprises us. You do not dole out grace according to how hard we work, how often we worship, or how closely we follow the rules. Although you lavish grace upon us we can never deserve, we insist on deciding who is deserving and who is not. We grumble that some receive too little while others have more than their share. Forgive our arrogance. Help us live in humility and gratitude so that our words and deeds may embody your grace. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon**Sharing the Peace of Christ****Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading:** Matthew 20:1-16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked

only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Homily "More Than Fair"

The 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. Amen.

Offering *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold Friedell

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in Thy name,
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia! alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.

Alleluia! alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.
We will serve Thee faithfully.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Receiving the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Postlude *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

David Cherwien



Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Joannie King; 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; Joan Keith; Rachel Robertson (Brett & Donna Coe's daughter); Melba Slaven; Jerry Gay; Kevin Smith; Steve Dunn (Elois Murray's son); Katie Ganderson and her fiancé, Scott; Thelma Jean Paradysz

Loss of loved one: Brett & Donna Coe - loss of Brett's father, Harvey Coe

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

Today, 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).

Coffee Hour Today Following Worship!

This Sunday, September 20, following worship, enjoy coffee hour with fellow members from the comfort of your own home. Log on from 11:30 -- 12:30 to see familiar faces and catch up on one another's summer. Zoom invitation sent to your primary email from FPC Pasadena.

Session meets Monday, September 2, at 6:45 pm via Zoom. A Zoom link was sent to your email with the Session Packet.

Brown Bag and Bible Wednesdays 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.

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.

Called Congregational meeting after drive in worship on Sunday, October 4, 2020 to elect elders and deacons for the Class of 2023. Class of 2023 Deacons: Mark Clemmons, Claudia Kreitz, Linda Ross, Iliana Vela. Class of 2023 Elders: Nola Bray, Garland DeLoach, Frank Kucera, Lou Anne Sinor.

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!