

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Prelude *Prelude in C Major (BWV 531)*

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

One: Listen, O people, to holy teaching; tune your ears to hear God's word.

All: We worship to proclaim our sacred story, to tell of God's wondrous deeds.

One: Come, O people. In God's holy space we worship the Lord, our sustainer and guide.

All: Let us turn to God in prayer and praise.**Hymn** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
 feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
 Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
 be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
 Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
 Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
 I will ever give to thee.

Prayer of Confession

Loving Lord, you desire that we have the same mind as Christ and imitate his compassionate service, but our minds are fixed on attitudes and ambitions that draw us away from you. We labor for ourselves and attend to the needs of a precious few before considering how our time and talents could bless the world. We look up to the rich and famous and overlook the lowly, rather than affirming the dignity of all. Transform us, we pray. By your grace, give us the same mind and the same love as our Lord Jesus Christ, and work within us until our actions bear witness to the faith our tongues confess. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Assurance of Pardon**Sharing the Peace of Christ****Prayer for Illumination****Old Testament Reading** Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the

rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

New Testament Reading Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Homily “Between a Rock and a Hard Place”

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 *Be Still, My Soul*

arr. John Purifoy

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Leave to your God to order and provide, in ev'ry change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heav'nly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake, all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hast'ning on when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on Saint George's Windsor*

Jason D. Payne



Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Joannie King; Imelda Carrillo and daughter Selena; 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); Mary Knapik; Joan Keith; Jerry Gay; Kevin Smith; Steve Dunn (Elois Murray's son); Katie Ganderson and her fiancé, Scott Savage; Thelma Jean Paradysz; Linda Dupler; Thomas Kucera; Laura Weigler; Jim Tinney; Donna Gilchrest.

Upcoming Events @ FPC - *more details at fpcpasadena.org*

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. 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 Monday, September 28 (extended date).**

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. Trustee Class of 2023: 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!