

## **Welcome and Announcements:** October 25, 2020

Next Sunday (November 1) - All Saints' worship in the Memorial Garden (in-person) at 11 a.m., video will be posted to Facebook Sunday afternoon. No Sunday School November 1. Starting November 8 – we will livestream worship at 10 a.m., with Sunday School (Generous Justice class) meeting at 11 a.m.

### **Gathering Around God's Word**

**Prelude:** *\*Call to Worship* – Janet Rand

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### **Opening Prayer – A Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, Your justice protects those who are weak, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems those who are poor, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds those who are oppressed, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Friends – believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn:** *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

1. Jesus, Thy boundless love to me  
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,  
And reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,  
Myself to Thee entirely give.

2. O grant that nothing in my soul  
May dwell, but Thy pure Love alone;  
O may Thy love possess me whole,  
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove;  
May every act, word, thought, be love.

3. O Love, how gracious is Thy way!  
All fear before Thy presence flies;  
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,  
Where-e'er Thy healing beams arise.  
O Jesus, nothing may I see,  
Nothing desire, or seek, but Thee.

*Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653, trans. John Wesley, c. 1739; alt. Music: Henri Frederick Hemy, 1864, alt. James George Walton, 1874. Used by permission. CCLI #20516410 Size A, Streaming #20516427 Size A.

## **God's Word**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

### **Old Testament Reading: Psalm 90**

### **God's Eternity and Human Frailty**

*A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.*

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- <sup>6</sup> in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.
- <sup>7</sup> For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- <sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup> The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- <sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger?  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
- <sup>12</sup> So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.
- <sup>13</sup> Turn, O LORD! How long?  
Have compassion on your servants!
- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
<sup>15</sup> Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.  
<sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.  
<sup>17</sup> Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

**Sermon: Prayer, Belief, Practice, and Tradition**

The Rev. Kerra Becker English

**New Testament Reading: Matthew 22: 23-46**

### **The Question about the Resurrection**

<sup>23</sup> The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, <sup>24</sup> “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.’ <sup>25</sup> Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. <sup>26</sup> The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup> Last of all, the woman herself died. <sup>28</sup> In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.” <sup>33</sup> And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

### **The Greatest Commandment**

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup> He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

### **The Question about David’s Son**

<sup>41</sup> Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup> “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup> He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup> ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”?’

<sup>45</sup> If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup> No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## **Responding to God's Word**

### **Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### **Offering and Response: Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*, Words: Thomas Ken, 1995, 1709. Tune: Genevan Psalter, 1551. Words and music - Public Domain. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

## **Sending Us Out to be God's Word in the World**

Closing Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*, as in The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 1990 Westminster John Knox Press. Words: John Fawcett, 1782. Music: Johann Georg Nägeli (1773-1836), arr. Lowell Mason, 1845. Used by permission. CCLI #[20516410](#) Size A, Streaming #[20516427](#) Size A.

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** \**Laudate Deum* – Alma F. Baumgardner

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