

## SUNDAY BULLETIN



July 25, 2021

**“Breathing Under Water,” Eighth Sunday**

**GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME**

### PRELUDE & PROCESSION

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Angie

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Angie

MUSICAL CONTEMPLATION    *“If You Will Only Let God Guide You”*    G. Neumark/M.E. Kerrick

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Step Seven of the 12 Steps: Humbly asked God to remove our short comings.

Minister: Wait. If God already knows what we need before we ask, and cares about us more than we do ourselves, why do we need to ask?

**ALL: Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”**

Minister: When we ask in prayer, we ask not to change God, but to change ourselves.

Liturgist: We pray to form a living relationship with God, and to reorient the locus from which we live our lives...

**ALL: ...from self-centeredness to God-centeredness.**

Liturgist: To undo and undercut our own human nature of being self-centered, Jesus tells us to stay in the position of a beggar, a petitioner — one who is fully dependent upon God.

Minister: If we are honest with ourselves, this is our true position in life.

**ALL: And so, we must ask. We are here to worship the One who is able to give that which satisfies when we ask, and who opens the door upon which we knock.**

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Angie

**OPENING HYMN (insert)** *“Take My Life (Holiness)” by Scott Underwood*

**CALL TO CONFESSION IN SONG**

Rev Angie and Kurt Thomas

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You are only as far away as the sound of our whispers will travel, Lord, yet we so often struggle to speak with you intimately. We make small talk sometimes, thanking you for sun and rain, for gentle breezes and low humidity. Though we may be grateful, we know that chatting about the weather is something we do with casual acquaintances and even strangers.

**Hear our purposeful prayers.**

We maintain substantial vocabularies—collections of words we use to impress people, for work projects, and for school assignments. But do we use them to deepen the conversations we have with you?

**Hear our purposeful prayers.**

Forgive us, Lord, when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from you without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with you. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same.

**Hear our purposeful prayers.**

Forgive us, Holy One, when we approach you begging for guidance and direction, but then neglect to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers.

**Hear our purposeful prayers.**

Merciful God, may we have another chance to appreciate the fullness of your love? May we try, once again, to shed our self-interest and find joy in serving your interests?

**Hear our purposeful prayers. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.**

*(Moment of contemplative confession)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AT THE FONT**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Minister: May the Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Minister: Greet one another with a wave of Christ’s peace.

**PEACE RESPONSE HYMN #406** *We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are  
angels all around; let us praise Jesus now; we are standing  
in his presence on holy ground.*

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Liturgist

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Philippians 4: 4-9

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 6: 1, 5-13

**SERMON**

“Breathing Under Water: Why Do We Need to Ask?”

Rev. Angie

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Liturgist

**We believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.**

**We believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.**

**We believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.**

**Because Christ has called us, in this we truly believe. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER ENDING WITH 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.**

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

Liturgist

**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.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

**\*CLOSING HYMN #465**

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice!

People: Today we choose to rejoice in all circumstances by adjusting our perspective from self-centeredness to God-centeredness.

Leader: Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

People: Today we choose God's peace by humbly asking God to remove our shortcomings, and trusting that God will do it.

Leader: Turn your hearts away from the distractions and disappointments of life that will always flow in and flow out like the tide.

People: Today we choose to set our affections on the people and creations of God, the one who loves and cares for everyone.

Leader: Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable...

**People: Today we choose to think about these things, to keep on doing what Jesus taught us, and to live by his example.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SEVEN-FOLD AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**      *"Near to the heart of God/I've Got Peace Like a River"* C.B. McAfee, Traditional  
/ A.C. Whitworth

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**Participants in worship:**

**Rev. Angie Mabry**

**Marcy Lasseter – Organist / Pianist**

**Richard Klein, David Buyze – A/V**

**Kurt Thomas – Liturgist/Soloist**

**Greeter – Meredith Echols**

**Richard Klein, Sherri Godsey – Editing**