

Sunday August 16th, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: When hatred and division separate us,

All: God's love binds us together.

One: When quarrels estrange us from one another,

All: Christ's light shows us the way to reconciliation.

One: When we feel excluded and left out,

All: the Spirit's peace eases our pain.

One: When all hope of fellowship seems lost,

All: God's grace restores our hope.

One: Come! Let us worship God, who makes us one.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn: VU 231 "I Sing The Mighty Power Of God"

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Eternal God, part the veil that blinds us to our unity as your beloved children. When those we love hurt and betray us, help us let go of our pain and find the balm of forgiveness. When we feel abandoned by those we trust, help us to seek your peace and reconciliation. When our hearts are pierced with anguish, help us find those who will bring us solace, through your loving Spirit. Amen.

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 356 "Seek Ye First"

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 45: 1-15

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 10-28

Prayer of Reflection (said together)

Merciful God, we yearn to be like the Joseph who wept with forgiveness with those who sold him into slavery, but we fear that our anger and resentment would lead us to take retribution on those who have wronged us. We long to see in the Canaanite woman a child of God worthy of mercy and compassion, but we fear that our deep-seated prejudices might lead us to dismiss her out of hand, as Jesus's disciples did before us. We want to open our hearts, O God, to those

who are different from ourselves, but we fear to expect too much of ourselves. Help us know the joy of living in peace and harmony, even with those we would rather live without.

Time of Reflection

Words of Assurance

One: The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

All: We rejoice in the knowledge of God's saving love. Amen.

Anthem: New Irish Youth Choir – “*You’re The God*”

Message: I’m Not Prejudiced, But...

Hymn: VU 236 “Now Thank We All Our God”

The Offering

***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.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU 332 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The Blessing and Benediction

***Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.***

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: *The Hawai’i Blessing*