

Sunday, July 4th, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 48)

One: When insecurities mount up within our souls,

All: God's strength will be our guide.

One: When hardships weaken our resolve,

All: God's mercy will be our guide.

One: When insults rip and slander stains,

All: God's courage will be our guide.

One: When vulnerability saps our faith,

All: God's presence will be our guide.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: **VU# 232** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Divine Creator, through your voice, we understand who you created us to be. Through your voice, we understand our calling. Through your persistent presence, we find resilience.

May we contentedly embrace our vulnerabilities. May we boldly claim our past, and may we find our future with determination and grace. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10

Gospel Reading: Mark 6: 1-13

Hymn **VU# 337** “Blessed Assurance”

The Lord's Prayer

Good News Time

Prayer of Confession

Holy Creator, we have refused to give our neighbours the honour they deserve. We have rejected others, as Jesus was rejected before us. Status drives us. Gossip lures us. Reputations gain more traction than the entirety of the person in front of us.

We choose chaos over kindness, and disconnection over spiritual bonds. May our hearts repent, returning to your voice. May our minds renew, returning to the ones you created us to be. May your grace abound. Amen.

(A time of quiet reflection on the prayer we have just shared)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Shame lives within us no more. God's grace is sufficient for all.

All: May the power of Christ dwell in our souls, and nudge us to grow in our relationships. Amen.

Anthem: Owen Mac – *“In The Time That You Gave Me”*

Sermon: Changing Perspectives

Hymn: **VU# 608** “Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind”

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# 772** “Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken”

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: 50 Countries – *“Amazing Grace”*