

**First Presbyterian Church** Rouses Point  
Virtual Worship- June 7, 2020 Order of Service

Greeting

Prayer of Preparation

Heavenly Father, we praise you because you sent Jesus to rule over all things and to bring us into your Kingdom. By your Spirit empower us today to service in Christ's name, so our minds and our lives may reflect Jesus. All honor and glory be to you O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

Call to Worship

O Blessed Trinity, in whom we live and move and have our being, we gather in our separate places to worship you. Receive, our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer of Confession

The truth of God's amazing love is this, Christ died for sinners. Let us therefore seek the grace God offers us through the death and resurrection of his Son. Heavenly Father, we confess we are unworthy of your grace for we are sinners, and yet we repent of our sin and seek forgiveness through Jesus. (SILENT PRAYER)

By the power of the Holy Spirit, help up to live repentant lives and so honor Jesus who died for us. Free us, we pray, from the things of the past that prevent us from loving and serving you, for it is in Christ's name we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Readings and Proclaiming God's Word

Old Testament: Psalm 8

New Testament 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Sermon "Trinity Sunday"

\*Affirmation of faith: Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution and Communion of the People

Benediction

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

L: It is truly right for us to give you thanks, and to praise you, Eternal God, our Creator. You brought light out of darkness, set the sun in the sky to light the world by day, and the moon and stars to illumine the night.

**P: You sent your Son into the world to be the Light of the World, to overcome the darkness of our sin, Therefore we join our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. The world was darkened by his death on the cross for sinners, but the light of his glory could not be extinguished.

**P: From death and the grave he rose like the sun, with immortal power and radiant peace.**

L: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus we take this bread and cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising.

**P: According to his command: We remember Christ's death, we proclaim his resurrections, and we await his coming again in glory.**

L: Pour out your Spirit, we pray, upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup be bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Him and one another, and send us out into the world to serve him. All glory be to you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, our works, as a continual thank-offering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SERMON SUMMARY- 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14

BEFORE HIS DEATH THE SAVIOR LAMENTED OVER JERUSALEM. HE SPOKE OF HOW HE LONGED TO GATHER HER PEOPLE TOGETHER LIKE A MOTHER HEN GATHERS HER CHICKS UNDER HER WINGS, BUT THEY WERE NOT WILLING. IN EACH NATION AND PLACE IN THE WORLD, IT MAY BE THAT JESUS OFFERS THE SAME LAMENT TODAY. INDEED, EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO CLAIM THE NAME CHRISTIAN, THERE ARE TIMES WE ARE UNWILLING TO BE GATHERED TO JESUS, OR INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

SADLY, THIS IS NOT JUST A PROBLEM IN OUR OWN TIME. THINGS LIKE: STRIFE, JEALOUSY, ANGER, HATRED, AND PREJUDICE HAVE TORN APART THE CHURCH FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT SINCE THE FIRST CENTURY A.D. A STRIKING METAPHOR FOR THIS PROBLEM OF UNREPENTANT SINFUL WORDS AND BEHAVIOR AMONG CHRISTIANS, WAS OFFERED BY ONE COMMENTARY.

THE BOOK POINTED OUT THAT WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED THE ROMAN SOLDIERS ROLLED DICE FOR HIS ROBE, RATHER THAN TEAR IT APART. IRONICALLY, SINCE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION CHRISTIANS HAVE METAPHORICALLY BEEN TEARING THE ROBE OF JESUS APART BY: OUR INFIGHTING, AS WELL AS BY FAILING TO OBEY HIS COMMAND TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS LIKE WE LOVE OURSELVES, AND LIKE WE LOVE OUR OWN KIND OF PEOPLE.

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S TWO LETTERS TO THE CHRISTIANS OF CORINTH ADDRESSED IN VARIOUS WAYS THEIR LESSER YET SERIOUS DIVISIONS. PAUL STRESSED THE NEED FOR UNITY IN WORDS, ACTIONS, AND WITNESS TO JESUS CHRIST. HE TRIED OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO GET THEM, AS WELL AS TO GET BELIEVERS IN OTHER PLACES, TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE DO NOT BELONG TO OURSELVES. INSTEAD, FIRST AND FOREMOST, BEFORE WE BELONG TO ANY FAMILY, PEOPLE, PLACE, NATION, OR GROUP, WE BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST.

WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ALWAYS GOING TO AGREE WITH, OR EVEN LIKE EACH OTHER, HE KEPT INSISTING OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHERS MUST REFLECT THE ONE TO WHOM WE BELONG.

IN THE CONCLUSION OF HIS SECOND EPISTLE THE APOSTLE ADMONISHED THEM TO DO SEVERAL THINGS. FIRST, TO PUT THINGS IN ORDER, THAT IS TO WORK FOR RESTORATION. SECOND, HE PLEADED FOR THEM TO AGREE WITH ONE ANOTHER, MEANING BE OF ONE MIND. AND THE LAST THING HE ASKED- WAS FOR THEM TO LIVE IN PEACE.

WHEN WE DO THESE THINGS THE APOSTLE ASSURES US GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE WILL BE VISIBLE AMONG US. WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY IN PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS IS THAT CHRISTIANS MUST MAKE THE DECISION TO DO THESE THINGS, AND THEN, PUT FORTH THE EFFORT OF DOING THEM.

PAUL ALSO REMINDS HIS READERS WHY AND HOW WE ARE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD, AND SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER SALVATION COMES THROUGH THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LOVE OF GOD. THIS RESULTS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH ALL CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

GRACE MEANS UNEARNED OR DESERVED FAVOR. IT CAN ALSO BE DESCRIBED AS GOD'S GOODNESS AND MERCY TOWARDS US, GIVEN THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST. PAUL'S PRAYER IS FOR EACH CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS TO PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE THIS GRACE. NEXT COMES THE LOVE OF GOD. THIS LOVE COMES FROM THE VERY NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD WHO IS THE PURIST AND MOST POWERFUL FORM OF LOVE THERE IS, OR EVER WILL BE.

THE LOVE OF GOD IS THE BASIS FOR THE LOVE WE SHARE, AS WELL AS THE BASIS FOR OUR SALVATION. THIS LOVE CULMINATED IN GOD'S INCARNATION IN JESUS, WHO WAS BORN TO SHOW US GOD'S WAY OF LOVE, AND TO LIVE OUT THAT LOVE BY DYING ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD CONFIRMED THE ACCEPTANCE OF HIS SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF SINNERS.

THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES US WITH THE ABILITY AND THE INSPIRATION TO WELCOME AND SHARE THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND LOVE OF GOD. THE SPIRIT ALSO BINDS US TOGETHER WITH GOD'S SELF, AND BINDS US TO ONE.

MAY WE HEAR, AND ALLOW GOD TO ANSWER YES TO THIS PRAYER IN EACH OF OUR LIVES, SO THAT THE WORLD WILL SEE AND SEEK FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH US. AMEN