

Worship Service on September 10, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Cara Davenport

Tonight ~ The first supper and meeting for Alpha will be from 5-7 pm in the church fellowship room.

Monday ~ Uplift Cancer Support Group meets at 3 pm at church.

Tuesday ~ Prayer Group will meet at the church at 7 pm with a book discussion of chapters 12-13 in *Gentle and Lowly*.

Wednesday ~ Seeking God Together group meets at the Sommons' home at 11 am.
~ Christian Ed. Committee meeting at 7:30 pm via zoom.

Thursday ~ Mission Meeting at the church fellowship room at 4 pm.
~ Choir practice will also be at the church at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join.

Opportunities ~ If you are interested in getting baptized or joining the church as a member, please let Pastor Rebecca know.

~ The Community Food Cupboard is collecting items for quick meals for September. Thank you for contributing what you can.

Happy Birthday to Emily Stevens on Monday and
Happy Anniversary to Jim Holden and Lisa Catapano-Friedman on Saturday!



Thank you to Martha Thompson for the flowers today in honor of Joe Stannard.

Mission Moment ~ Matthew Sommons will introduce the **United Missions Basic** video that will explain our special mission focus for September.

Word of Preparation ~ Cara Davenport

Prelude ~ You are invited to listen to the choir sing
“Follow Rain and Rivers” by Robert J. Gielas
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship ~ **Selected verses from Isaiah 45 (NET)**
read by Cara Davenport with everyone joining in reading the bold lines.

The Lord said ~ “I have taken hold of your right hand”...

As I lead you, I will level mountains...

I will give you treasures hidden in dark and secret places.

Then you will know that I, the Lord God of Israel,

have called you by name.

Only I am the Lord!

There are no other gods.

I have made you strong...

⁶Now everyone from east to west will learn that I am the Lord.

No other gods are real.

⁷I create light and darkness, happiness and sorrow.

I, the Lord, do all this.

⁸Tell the heavens to send down justice like showers of rain.

Prepare the earth for my saving power

to sprout and produce justice

that I, the Lord, create.

Song ~ “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” (#73, blue hymnal)

*There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood
For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind*

*If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God’s word
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord*

Words ~ Frederick W. Faber, 1854 and Music ~ Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877

Praying Together ~

Space for prayer requests

**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.**

Song ~ The worship team will lead us in singing

“The Father’s House”

*Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for Your strength
My story isn't over my story's just begun
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does
Failure won't define me 'cause that's what my Father does*

Chorus

O-o-o ~ Lay your burdens down

O-o-o ~ Here in the Father's house

Check your shame at the door

'Cause it ain't welcome anymore

O-o-o ~ You're in the Father's house

*Arrival's not the endgame; the journey's where You are
You never wanted perfect; You just wanted my heart
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room*

Chorus

*Prodigals come home; the helpless find hope
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room
Prison doors fling wide; the dead come to life
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room
Miracles take place; the cynical find faith
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room
Jericho walls are quaking; strongholds now are shaking
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room*

Chorus two times

CCLI Song # 7135153 Benjamin Hastings | Cory Asbury | Ethan Hulse
© 2019 Bethel Music Publishing CCLI License # 11289244

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca and Matthew Sommons

Scripture Passage ~ John 8:1-11 (NIV) read by Cara Davenport

¹ *Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*
² *At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts,
where all the people gathered around him,
and he sat down to teach them.*
³ *The teachers of the law and the Pharisees
brought in a woman caught in adultery.
They made her stand before the group* ⁴
and said to Jesus,
“Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.
⁵ *In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.*
Now what do you say?”
⁶ *They were using this question as a trap,
in order to have a basis for accusing him.*
But Jesus bent down
and started to write on the ground with his finger.
⁷ *When they kept on questioning him,
he straightened up and said to them,*
*“Let any one of you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”*
⁸ *Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.*
⁹ *At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time,
the older ones first,*
until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.
¹⁰ *Jesus straightened up and asked her,*
“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”
¹¹ *“No one, sir,” she said.*
“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared.
“Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Sermon ~ “The Intersection of Justice and Mercy”

Written by Craig Keith and read by Matthew Sommons

Song ~ “Restless Weaver” (#658 in the blue hymnal)

*Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures have a home
Gathering up life’s varied fibers ~ every texture, every hue
Grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew
Where earth’s fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit’s inspiration ~ offering health where once was pain ~
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again
When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn
From compassion’s sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God to dare
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer
Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life ~ now and yet to be ~
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry;
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew*

Words ~ O. I. Cricket Harrison, Music ~ Attr. B. F. White, harm. Ronald A. Nelson
Published by Chalice Press, 1995

Benediction ~ Psalm 86:5; Psalm 67:1; Matthew 5:7 (NLT)

O Lord, you are so good and kind,
so ready to forgive,
so full of mercy for all who ask your aid.

O God, in mercy bless us;
let your face beam with joy as you look down at us.

Happy are the kind and merciful,
for they shall be shown mercy.

Postlude ~

“Beyond Justice to Mercy”

*I know we don't see eye to eye
We've let angry hearts flare and the bitter words fly
The common ground we used to share is harder to find
But I believe that it's still there
I don't know if now is the time to surrender the silence
Between your heart and mine
But the love that I've chosen cries out to be spoken
Leaving the heartache behind

We must reach out beyond justice to mercy
Going more than halfway to forgive
And though the distance seems so far
The love that used to hold our hearts
Longs to take us beyond justice to mercy

It doesn't matter who's to blame.
Oh, the love that I have for you is still the same
A tender voice is calling me to that place of compassion
Where hearts run pure and free
Where the hunger for vengeance gives way to repentance
Where love will teach us to see

We can reach out beyond justice to mercy
Going more than halfway to forgive
And though the distance seems so far
The love that used to hold our hearts
Longs to take us beyond justice to mercy*