

The Worship of God

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020

We Gather in God's Presence

Greeting

Rev. Suzanne Ringer

As you gather for worship in whatever space you find yourself, center your heart and spirit on God's presence in your life.

Lighting of the Altar Candles

The light symbolizes the presence of God in our worship and in our lives.

Presenting the Cross

The cross symbolizes the grace of God given freely to all people

Hymn 698

CWM RHONDDA

For the Healing of the Nations

*For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.
Lead us forward into freedom; from despair Your world release, that, redeemed from war and hated,
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure Your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span, may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator, God, have written Your great name on humankind;
for our growing in Your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, earth its destiny may find.*

Children's Time

Mrs. Kim Shaw

Matthew 7:12

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

We Hear God's Word and Pray

Scripture

Mrs. Leigh Reynolds

Luke 6:31-36

Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

Prayers for the People

Mrs. Reynolds

Anthem

Joseph Martin

Prayer for Our Time

*Our God, to Thee we pray. Heal our nation, Lord, today. God of mercy, grant us courage.
Give us peace, give us peace. When evil draws its angry sword and seeks to sever freedom's cord,
When death and darkness shake our faith in God's unfailing power to save,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.*



When war is waged by faceless foes who battle peace with fiery blows, when storms of hate and fear assail, our Father's mighty arm prevails, Eternal Father, ever be our refuge in the time of need. There is no tyrant who can stand against our sure Defender's hand. No threat or danger can defeat the strong and righteous Prince of Peace. Eternal Father, ever be our fortress in the time of need. Amen.

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We Grow from God's Word

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Hayes

Litany for Civility in Politics

We acknowledge that God calls us to show respect to everyone—regardless of their views on difficult issues that divide our country.

In response to God's commandment, we will strive to treat those who have different views as we want to be treated by them.

As we advocate for what we believe, help us to remember that the Bible tells us to be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry.”

In response, we will seek to do more listening so that we might learn from others.

We know the Bible tells us we should do our best to present ourselves before God as ones approved to handle the word of truth.

In response, we will be truth-tellers in our conversations, correctly presenting facts so as not to deceive others.

We remember that Jesus said we should forgive the sins against us not just seven times but “seventy times seven.”

In response, we will remember to forgive those who say harsh things about us and resist the temptation to respond in kind when we are attacked.

We know that, as Christians, we are told to work for increased understanding, justice and peace for all people.

In response, we will do what we can during the months ahead to stay mindful of the sacredness of each person and to apply Jesus' Golden Rule in our personal lives, in our community, and in our political activity. Amen.

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn of Response 697

FINLANDIA

This Is My Song

*This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine;
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine:
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

*This is my prayer, O Ruler of the nations: let Thy reign come; on earth Thy will be done.
In peace may all earth's people draw together, and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give Thee; let Thy will be done.*

We Worship through Giving

We encourage you to continue giving tithes and offerings so that bills and ministries are supported. You may do this through our website (oaklandchurch.com), the Breeze app, texting “Give” to (803)599-3738, and using automatic drafts. If you need assistance with any of these methods, please contact the church office.

We Are Sent Forth to Share with Others

Service and Fellowship of the Church

Benediction

Mrs. Shaw

Hear the word of the Lord from Galatians:

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Go forth in this kind of love. Amen.

Postlude

America the Beautiful
Mr. John Posey

