



Bethel United Church of
Christ Bulletin-
Sixteenth Sunday After
Pentecost
September 20, 2020
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"It is not merely the time that we put in. It is the heart that we put into the time we have."
Warren E. Berkley-2006

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Bethel Praise Team

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

God, we have come together today to share your stories.

We come with questions, doubts and not a lot of answers.

But we are here now, ready to worship and sing praises to you.

Renew us today and prepare us for discipleship.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION *(unison)*

O God of Grace and Compassion, you care for our needs like a loving parent. When we knock, you open your heart to us. By your forgiveness we are able to forgive others. Move among us today and fill us with your generous love. You have called us to be disciples in a world filled with need. Show us the way. Amen.

OPENING HYMN#277

"Christians, We Have Met to Worship." (vs. 1&3)

277 Christians, We Have Met to Worship

1. Chris-tians, we have met to wor-ship and a-dore the liv-ing God;
 2. Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
 3. Let us love our God su-preme-ly, let us love each oth-er, too;

will you pray with all your pow-er, while we try to preach the Word?
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar-y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
 let us pray for all earth's peo-ple till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un-less the Spir-it of the Ho-ly One comes down;
 Tell them all a-bout the Sav-ior, how in Christ the lost are found.
 Christ will call us home to heav-en, at the ta-ble we'll sit down;

Chris-tians, pray, and ho-ly man-na will be show-ered all a-round.
 Pray, oh pray, and ho-ly man-na will be scat-tered all a-round.
 Christ will wel-come us and serve us liv-ing man-na all a-round.

WORDS: Attr. George Atkins (19th century); alt.
 MUSIC: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

HOLY MANNA
 87.87D

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, we admit that our thoughts are not always loving. We forget to listen for your guidance. When we speak to you, it is often to beg or complain. Our greed overtakes our gratitude. We live fearfully rather than faithfully. Sometimes we question why some get blessings that we think they don't deserve. O God, forgive our questioning. Forgive our selfishness. We ask for your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OUR SACRED STORIES

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but" against the Lord. Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the

same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"C-O-M-P-L-A-I-N-I-N-G"

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come Thou Font"

Bethel Praise Team

MESSAGE

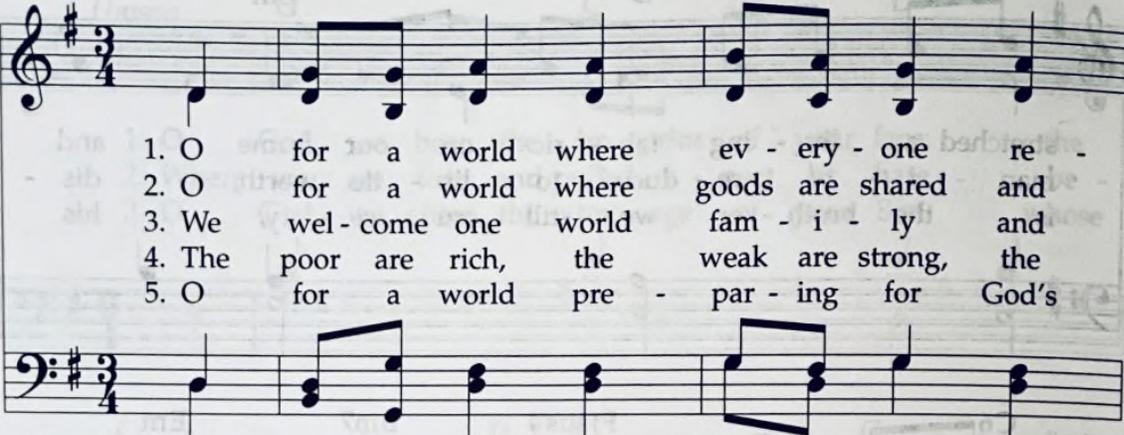
"The Great Equalizer"

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens

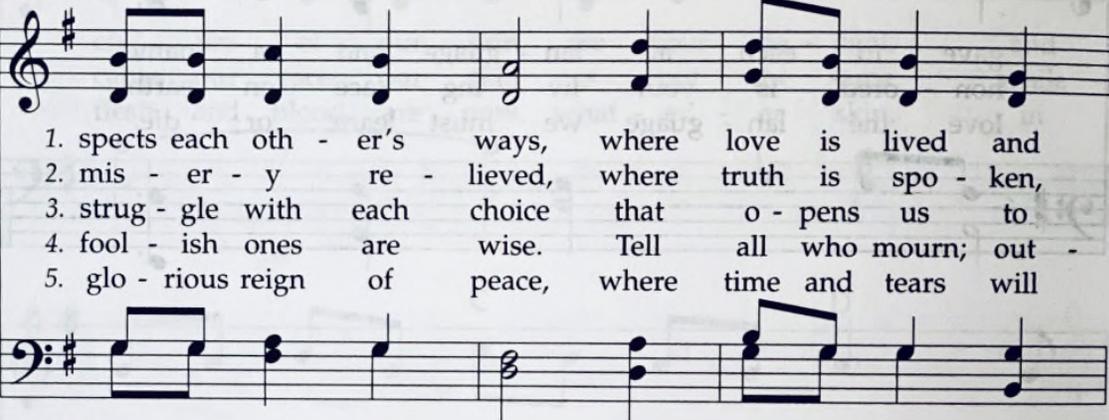
HYMN#683

"O For a World" (vs. 1,2,3)

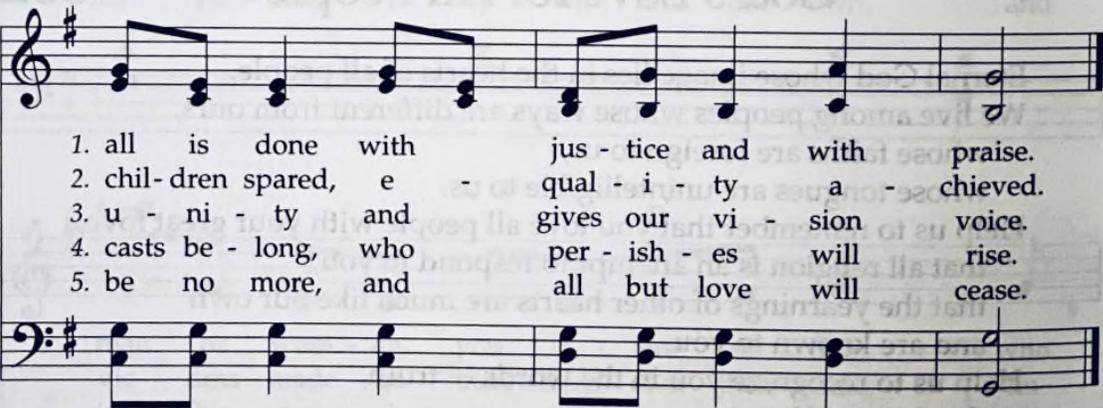
O God, We O for a World



1. O for a world where ev - ery - one re -
 2. O for a world where goods are shared and
 3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and
 4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the
 5. O for a world pre - par - ing for God's



1. spect's each oth - er's ways, where love is lived and
 2. mis - er - y re - lieved, where truth is spo - ken,
 3. strug - gle with each choice that o - pens us to
 4. fool - ish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn; out -
 5. glo - rious reign of peace, where time and tears will



1. all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 2. chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 3. u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 4. casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 5. be no more, and all but love will cease.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
CM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER (*forgive us our sins...*)
RESPONSE *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

305 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The lyrics are: 'Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!'. The score includes first and final endings for the final phrase.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it
in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!

1 (optional) Final

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory

"Amazing Grace"
Chad Willis. piano

by Joel Raney

Prayer of Dedication

BAPTISM

Ollie Neill and Adler James Schmidt

Parents: Jamie and Kelsey (Holloway) Schmidt

Sponsors: Paul & Nancy Schmidt (grandparents)

Paige Schmidt (aunt)

(Ollie and Adler are the great-nephews of Don & Anne Eversmeyer)

CLOSING HYMN#683

"O For a World" (vs. 4&5)

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

As Christ's disciples we leave this time together filled with strength and hope!

Our work never ends and our joy comes from drawing in others to work with us.

We are not judged by how long we have been a disciple. Old or new, God gives us what we need.

God is the great equalizer.

Go in peace, empowered by God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer. And let the people say, **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"
Chad Willis, piano

by Matt Limbaugh