

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 28, 2020

Opening

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

Callum and Alice Ann Lever

Freedom is coming!

We can hear it in the voices of the oppressed.

Hope is coming!

We can see it in the eyes of all those who despair.

God is here!

We count on God's presence with us, to guide, heal and uplift our spirits.

Hymn #563

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our *fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Prayer of Confession

As citizens of the United States, let us repent both the individual and corporate evil that has afflicted this nation:

Loving God, Friend and Savior, we confess the sins which have infected and blighted our lifestyle, and alienated us from each other and from you.

We repent the racism, sometimes open, sometimes furtive, which has increased the misery of minority groups.

We confess our reluctance to understand or alleviate the pain of our Native American brothers and sisters; we repent of the destruction of livelihoods and the loss of civilization.

We repent our ignorant, and at times willful, abuse of the land and its creatures, and our despoiling of the soil, air and water.

We confess the destruction of forests, depletion of the ozone layer, extinction of unique animals, and pollution of river systems.

We repent our apathy, and sometimes scorn, towards the unemployed and the unemployable.

We confess the politics of expediency, the lack of prophetic courage, the use of the media for sowing division.

We repent our neglect of prayer, scripture, social justice, evangelism, and our reluctance to make friends among the disreputable, for Christ's sake.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy... (Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

American Identity

Hymn #564

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”
(v. 1, 3-4)

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with *brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with *brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

Prayers of the People

*After each petition, Pastor will say “Lord, In Your Mercy.”
Congregation will respond with “Hear Our Prayer.”*

Lord’s Prayer

***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.***

“Light the Fire”

I stand to praise you
But I fall to my knees
My spirit is hungry
But my flesh is so weak

So light the fire in my soul
Fan the flame make me whole
Oh Lord you know where I've been
So light the fire in my heart again

I feel your arms around me
As the power of your healing begins
You breathe new life right through me
Like a mighty rushing wind

Benediction

Announcements for June 28th

Good morning, grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Welcome to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church this day. Whether this finds you on a Sunday morning or a Thursday afternoon, or whether this is your first time joining us or if you are an old friend, we give thanks for your presence. Even though we are disconnected physically, we are spiritually bonded, and for that we give thanks.

Today, we are leaning into our American roots, this coming Saturday is July 4th, and so today, while not patriotic per se, is meant to be a worship of lament, hope, healing, and wholeness for where we find ourselves as a country. I pray that wherever you are and how these past several months have impacted you that you know we at Mount Vernon are committed to connecting with you and serving alongside, or responding to your needs to the best of our ability. May we, as a church, be a light for those hurting and longing in our midst.

If you are watching us Sunday, your Session will meet immediately following worship for a special called meeting. We hope that after this meeting we can share good news with you regarding our current search for an Associate Pastor. I should also share with you that Session will meet this coming July 19th and there we will have a broader discussion about future plans for the church as it pertains to our response to the pandemic.

A few worship notes to share with you going forward. On July 5th, we will have a special hymn sing service that will guide us through the Christian calendar. This will be a wonderful time of scripture, familiar songs, and hopefully some teaching moments as we rejoice with a God who moves through all time. On July 12th, we will once again celebrate the sacrament of communion. We welcome you to join us with wine, juice, bread, or crackers. Whatever you have as long as you bring it to the table with grace in your heart is welcome.

We do want to celebrate last week's food drive and Blessings of the Animals. Because of your generous spirit, we gave 760 pounds of food to CAC, and several animals received blessings. We also have this new sign, courtesy of our Witness Team, that you may come and pick up to put in your yard. If you don't have a yard, we are making magnets of this sign to go on your refrigerator.

Once again, we want to thank you for your generosity. Your spirit of stewardship has allowed us to continue in our mission. If you would like to give to our general fund or to our Covid-19 fund, simply send a check to the church or go to the giving tab on the church website.

Finally, let us be in prayer for our world and country as we continue to struggle with the coronavirus. We pray for the vulnerable and for those treating the afflicted. We pray for those we know but who go unnamed dealing with physical, mental, and emotional pain. We especially think of families struggling due to the stress of this season and the toll it has taken. We also ask for prayers for those who have lived under a system of injustice and unjust cruelty. May we as human beings be better.

In that spirit, let us turn our hearts and minds to God, and let us worship our Lord and Savior...