



Needlepoint By:
Nancy Morris & Marion Scott

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

† *For those who are able, please stand.*

Simon, the Zealot, was a member of a group of revolutionaries who hated the ruling Romans. The Zealots hoped that Jesus would establish a kingdom on earth and overthrow the Romans. Tradition says that Simon and Thaddaeus preached the gospel throughout Syria and Mesopotamia. He is represented by the Latin cross and the fish because he, through the power of the cross, became a "fisher of People."

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Be Still My Soul"
United Pursuits

Emi Lutz

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gill Hutt

ONE: What does it mean to be a disciple?

ALL: **To be a disciple is to follow and learn from another as a pupil.**

ONE: Today we learn about Simon the Zealot. What does it mean to be a zealous disciple?

ALL: **It means to be enthusiastic; it can even mean revolution!**

ONE: So let us start a righteous revolution as we follow Christ.

ALL: **Yes! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #388**

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

MacKenzie Truitt

Passionate God, this summer you invited us to cleanse your temple. We responded with a fresh coat of paint, renewed heating and air, and added a shiny gloss for your table and font. Today we read how your Son cleanses the temple, how he removes all that elicits financial exploitation and suppresses spiritual renewal. As your disciples, we know we are called to listen, to follow, and to serve. Teach us what you taught your disciples: "Zeal for your house will consume me." Through this call, place upon us a fresh coat of faith, renew in us a righteous spirit, and let us shine the light on the love we have for your Son, Jesus Christ. May we take from this temple a zeal to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. In your holy name we pray ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

"Down to the River to Pray"

Refrain

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray (*refrain*)

O mothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on mothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray (*refrain*)

(*All children are welcome to come forward.*)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elaine Frances Player
Carrie Southard, Elder

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† HYMN OF WELCOME #492

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; heirs of salvation,
Trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King; one with his rising,
Freed and forgiven thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King; born of the Spirit,
We are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.
The children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Joey Noszek

SCRIPTURE

John 2:13-22

HOMILY

“Seats of Discipleship: Simon the Zealot”

Rev. Abernethy

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Second Helvetic Confession with the subtitle Priesthood of all Believers)* Rev. Abernethy

To be sure, Christ's apostles call all who believe in Christ “priests,” but not on account of an office, but because, all the faithful having been made kings and priests, we are able to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ. Therefore, the priesthood and the ministry are very different from one another. For the priesthood, as we have just said, is common to all Christians.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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.

OFFERTORY

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Choir

John Ness Beck

† DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kris Koellner

Very little is known about Simon, hence our conversation around zealotry today. For you, what does it mean to be zealous for Christ?

This section of the Confession speaks to what Christian zealotry aspires to, and since the priesthood is “common to all Christians” what we are confessing is that like Simon, we too, should strive to be zealous for Christ.

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“The Summons” KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be show, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Shine, Jesus Shine” arr. Mark Hayes

Donna Maini

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Donna Maini, Accompanist

Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

Emi Lutz, Guitarist

We are located at:
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