

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2021**

**Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence**

Prelude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* *Kendall*
 I Am Thine, O Lord *Prentiss*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

🕯 Call to Worship *Hob Pusey*

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
Let us worship the Triune God.

🕯 Invocation *Hob Pusey*

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.
We have come to listen to you,
to seek you, to worship you.
You are the beginning of all things,
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.
In you we become; in you we live.
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.
In you we hope; in you we live.
You are the source of serenity,
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.
In you we are still; in you we live.
Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.
Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. **Amen.**

🕯 Hymn 234 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Thru all eternity.*

*Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown Him the Lord of life: Who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal like to bring and lives that death may die.*

*Crown Him the Lord of heav'n: One with the Father known,
One with the spirit thru Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise, For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, thru endless days adored and magnified.
A-men.*

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Hob Pusey

Merciful God, for the things we have done that we regret,
forgive us;
for the things we have failed to do that we regret,
forgive us;
for all the times we have acted without love,
forgive us;
for all the times we have reacted without thought,
forgive us;
for all the times we have withdrawn care,
forgive us;
for all the times we have failed to forgive,
forgive us.
For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid, for unfinished tasks
and unfulfilled hopes,
God of all time, forgive us and help us to lay down our burden of regret. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Since we have now been justified by his blood,
how much more shall we be saved
from God's wrath through him!

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

 **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory

Bill Mecaughey

 **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

 **Prayer of Dedication**

All good things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 76**

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

*O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.*

*Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
He sets the prisoner free;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.*

*He breaks the power of canceled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;*

*His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.*

*Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.*

*My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.
A-men.*

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 4

- ⁴ Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may gain^[a] insight,
² for I give you good precepts;
do not forsake my teaching.
³ *When I was a son with my father,*
tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴ he taught me and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
keep my commandments, and live.
- ⁵ Get wisdom; get insight;
do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;
love her, and she will guard you.
⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
⁹ She will place on your head a graceful garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."
¹⁰ Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of the evil.
¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.

- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone
stumble.
- ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- ¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.
- ²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
- ²¹ Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
- ²² For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their flesh.
- ²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.
- ²⁴ Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.
- ²⁵ Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you.
- ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.
- ²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.

Sermon

*“Wisdom as Guidance”
Rev. Tim Latham*

**Responding
We respond to God’s Word**

 **Hymn 275**

How Firm A Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

*"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"*

Profession of Faith

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

**People: We 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 Spirit.
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;**

**The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
The holy catholic church.
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn

In Christ Alone

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,*

*Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no schemes of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**

The Way of the Lord

Ritter