Worship Service - Jesus is Our Agenda

5 th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B,

23rd June, 2024

Isaiah 40:1-9 ESV / Mark 1:1-20 ESV

Prelude played by church musician Annie Center,

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Opening Music ~ <u>Two Fishermen</u> (Video) United Church in University Place posted to YouTube by United Church in University Place: written by Suzanne Toolan with visuals by Judy Thierry. Used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Welcome / Announcements

We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Now that you are back in your seats, please stand in body or spirit as you are able and join together in singing the opening hymn

Opening Hymn Comfort O My People ~ 176

Call to Worship

One: Christ is a refuge for the oppressed;

All: And no one who seeks him will be forgotten.

One: Sing to Jesus who has saved you,

All: He has delivered us from darkness and given voice to our song.

One: Pray to him who knows you and loves you,

All: He answered us when we needed him and he still leads and protects us.

One: Rejoice in the community of God's people,

All: We find our family here in the place of God's praise; and we bring him glory as one.

Based thematically on Ps 9, and Ps 107

Invocation

Lord Jesus, Son of the Father, Great shepherd of the sheep, come and lead us into your place of rest. Refresh us with water for our thirsty souls. Nourish us with food for our starving hearts. Holy Spirit of Christ, do your work in us as we are gathered here. Fill us that we would be a people that takes your grace to others in need. In Christ's name, Amen.

Old Testament Reading ~ Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

A Time of Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer by pastor

Hymn

O Jesus I Have Promised ~ 447

Sermon Passage ~ Mark 1:1-20 ESV

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.

And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Message Jesus is Our Agenda Interim Pastor Jonny Finlayson

Call to Serve

As we seek to become a place of compassion we ask that you consider all the ways that you could help our community through prayers, participation, partnering, or philanthropy. Donations are always welcome, but there are many other ways to contribute as well. Sign up to be a worship leader. Reach out to a friend who might be lonely. Give a sandwich to somebody on the street. Keep your eyes open to opportunities and possibilities to make another person's day a little more hopeful. And pray for the courage to step out in faith when the time is right. It all begins and ends with prayer - in gratitude, in crisis, in reflection on the day's events. As we listen to Annie play, reflect on the blessings that are all around us, and give thanks for the time we have together.

A Time for Reflection Played by church musician Annie Center, used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our God, for the gospel preached to the poor, and for the broken-hearted comforted; we thank you! Our Christ, for the liberty of the enslaved, and for the freedom given to those imprisoned; we thank you. Our Savior, for the favor to us from God and the vindication we have, purchased by your blood; we thank you. May we in thankfulness live in the truth and love of the gospel. In your name, Amen.

Hymn Great is the Lord ~ 87

Benediction Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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