

Astoria First United Methodist Church
June 20, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Kristin Hammond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“As the Deer”

Kristin Hammond

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Hicks

Sing praises to the Lord, sing praises. We will declare God’s deeds among the people. Shout for joy, you children of the Most High. God remembers the needy and gives hope to the poor. Sing praises to the Lord, sing praises. We will declare God’s deeds among the people. Seek God; know God; trust God, O people. Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion. Declare God’s deeds among the people, for the needy are remembered, the poor have hope. Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING *“Excerpts from I Samuel 17”*

Sue Hicks

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (possibly more than 9 feet tall) He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” And the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day.” Saul and all Israel heard the words of Goliath and were very afraid. At the same time, David came to the place where Israel camped. David greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

And David said to Saul, “Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. Your servant has struck

down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”

And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, and when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.” The Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Kristin Hammond

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 9:9-20”

Sue Hicks

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. Sing praises to the Lord, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted. Be gracious to me, O Lord! See my affliction from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may recount all your praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in your salvation. The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught. The Lord has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands. The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever. Arise, O Lord! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you! Put them in fear, O Lord! Let the nations know that they are but men!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read by the liturgist)

Sue Hicks

They can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world, we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them. Forgive us. God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, you will heal us. If we but listen to your words, we will hear peace and joy. If we but open our lives to you, we can go forth to serve our sisters and brothers, even as we have been served by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sue Hicks

With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith. Our God affirms us for who we are - those whose brokenness is made whole, whose sin is forgiven, whose lives overflow with faith. Thanks be to God! **AMEN**

NT EPISTLE READING

“2 Corinthians 6:1-13”

Sue Hicks

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Michael

When Jesus calls us to believe in him today, he’s telling us that we can trust the goodness of God in our lives. Generosity springs from our trust in God’s goodness, a goodness that is stronger than anything else in the world. This morning, as we give our gifts in support of the ministry of the church, we say that we trust our past, present, and future to God. Truly, God we can never out-give our loving and generous Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF PREPARATION

(1-4)

Congregation

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

UMH#110

(Projected on Screen by Power Point)

We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays

GOSPEL LESSON

“Mark 4:35-41”

Pastor Michael

SERMON

“Inserting Yourself Into the Story”

Pastor Michael

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mary Frances Gunn

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Michael

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Michael

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

BENEDICTION:

Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.

Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.

If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.

We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.