

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
July 4, 2021

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*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC** **Janet Todd**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Mary Frances Gunn**

**CENTERING MUSIC** *“Spirit of the Living God”* **Mary Frances Gunn**

**WORDS OF WELCOME** **Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** **Lorel Bresko**

We erect high altars and raise high steeples, but in no one place shall God be found. We sing right hymns and preach right doctrines, but in no one word shall God be bound. Our God is not bound, but our God shall build: Not temples but truth, not shrines but shalom. Our God is not bound, but our God shall build: Not rituals but rights, not dogmas but dreams. Not a space we call sacred, not a time we call holy, shall confine the works of the almighty Lord! Let us burst our bonds and break into praise, for our God is free: Our God is free!

**OPENING PRAYER** **Pastor Michael**

**OT SCRIPTURE READING** *“II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10”* **Lorel Bresko**

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** **Mary Frances Gunn**

*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

**PSALTER READING*****“Psalm 48”*****Lorel Bresko**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress. For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together. As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight. Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor. By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness. Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments! Walk about Zion, go round her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION****Pastor Michael****PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(read by the liturgist)***Lorel Bresko**

You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God. You call us to serve others, and we stay in the coolness of our own homes. You would send us to where the hopeless live, but we are reluctant to leave the comfort of our complacency. You would feed us on the peace and joy of your word, but we pull our chairs up to the tables of those who serve false promises. Forgive us, Guiding God. Transform our defiance into discipleship, and our rejection of others into the resurrection of welcoming all people as sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us to love as faithfully as you have always loved us and send us forth to take the good news of Jesus Christ to all who cross our path and reach out for help. We trust in your power and presence with us. Heal us. Guide our lives and forgive us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. **AMEN**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION****WORDS OF ASSURANCE****Pastor Michael**

We open our lips and confess with our hearts. God hears our words. God makes us new. God sends us out to bring hope and joy to all the world. We hear the good news. We believe the good news. May we choose to live as reflections of God's good news through our openness, acceptance, and love for one another. In the Name of Christ, the author of all love and life, you are all forgiven. **AMEN**

**NT EPISTLE READING*****“II Corinthians 12:2-10”*****Lorel Bresko**

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— though if I should wish to

boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD** **Pastor Michael**

The Spirit does not dominate or coerce. They caress, They unfold, They come alongside, They ask permission. Let us move as the Spirit teaches us: tenderly and with care, bringing our offerings to each other and to God.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** **Pastor Michael**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** *"I am Thine, O Lord"* **Congregation**  
*(Projected on Screen by Power Point)* **UMH#419**  
*We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays*

**GOSPEL LESSON** *"Mark 6:1-13"* **Pastor Michael**

**SERMON** *"The Person Behind the Presentation"* **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*

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## *Celebrating Holy Communion*

*(Please remember the communion elements of the bread and juice will be provide in a sealed container to be received individually.*

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**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.**