

Astoria First United Methodist Church
July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Kristen Hammond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

“Spirit of the Living God”

Kristen Hammond

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gloria Jones

People of God! We are God's beloved children in whom God is well-pleased and delighted and upon whom God's favor rests. God's power is found where cycles of dominance are danced into open fields of enough for all. God's power is found in co-creating with what's on hand: A shared meal, a safe place to stay, a new way to celebrate that refuses to raise a glass to anything stolen. When God's power is among us, scarcity no longer reigns. Thanks be to God, the source of our abundance. **AMEN**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

OT SCRIPTURE READING

“II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19”

Gloria Jones

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Fall Down”

Kristen Hammond

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 24”

Gloria Jones

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(read by the liturgist)*

Gloria Jones

It is, then, all too tragic how poorly we reflect Your love. How often we shrink from the inheritance of being Your children; and how readily we shirk the responsibility to love as we have been loved. There can be no excuse for our faults; there can be no justification for the ways we inhibit the fruitful living of others; or for the damage we do to this world and to ourselves. We confess that we have sinned. We have no hope but Your forgiveness; And so we ask it: in hope and in trust that Your love, Your perfect love – made human in Jesus Christ who walked among us and knows every hair on our heads and every movement of our lives, speaks quietly to our troubled souls: I do not condemn you: go, and sin no more. And so, rejoicing in the life of Christ, and in the joy of the Holy Spirit, we ask You to restore us anew, and shape us in Your ways. **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***“Ephesians 1:3-14”*****Gloria Jones**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share your love with the world. When we are overwhelmed by the enormity of the world's suffering, may we remember to be where we are -- these people, this community, this heart in this chest, this ground under our feet. So the needs of the here and now might be met with compassion, let us bring what we have to God and each other. **AMEN**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Pastor Michael****HYMN OF PREPARATION***(Projected on Screen by Power Point)***UMH#154*****“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”*****Congregation***We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays***GOSPEL LESSON*****“Mark 6:14-29”*****Pastor Michael****SERMON*****“In Everything Pre-eminent”*****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.**