

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
July 18, 2021

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*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**Jane Hill**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances Gunn**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“I Would Be True”*

**Jane Hill**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Mary Frances Gunn**

God is with us! Come, O Lord, and pour your word into our hearts. God is with us! Hear our cries, O Lord, and quiet our spirits! We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—all are welcome, always! We are God's beloved children now! All are welcome as part of God's family; brothers and sisters to one another. No one is excluded or prevented from entering. There are no outsiders here among us because we are joined together by the redeeming love of Jesus. Let's join together in worship! In the Name of Christ. **AMEN**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**OT SCRIPTURE READING**

*“II Samuel 7:1-13”*

**Mary Frances Gunn**

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.

In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Blessed Quietness”*

**Jane Hill**

**PSALTER READING**

*“Psalm 23”*

**Mary Frances Gunn**

*A Psalm of David*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(read by the liturgist)*

**Mary Frances Gunn**

The Lord is my shepherd, but why do I feel like I am lacking? My Shepherd leads me to grassy meadows and peaceful waters, but why do I not feel restful? My Shepherd guides me through good paths, but why do I insist on taking my own way? It is you who walks with me in the darkest of valleys. It is you who protects me with your rod and your staff, even when I don't want it.

Why does my heart feel fear? My Shepherd pours oil over me to refresh my soul and showers me with an abundance of life. Why do I allow my soul to become clouded by the weight of the world until I feel close to death? I am your guiding, guardian God, we do not want to live like sheep without a shepherd, or as strangers wandering alone in the world. We want to know your presence, and trust that you dwell within us. We yearn for conviction that your Spirit flows in and through us. Fill us when we are empty. Forgive us when we are wrong. Guide us when we are lost. Comfort us when we are tired. Reconcile us when we are disconnected and guard our lives with your indwelling Spirit. In your loving name, we pray. **AMEN**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** *(spoken by the pastor)*

**Pastor Michael**

Yet your goodness and mercy persistently follow me all the days of my life, they never let me go. Even in my weakness, you welcome me into your house as your family forever. Nothing will ever change that for all my days. Christ Jesus is our peace, reconciling us with God and

with one another. In our very lives, Christ dwells, full of mercy and grace to draw us to the heart of God.. In the Name of Christ, we are all forgiven.

**NT EPISTLE READING**

***“Ephesians 2:11-22”***

**Mary Frances Gunn**

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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

**Pastor Michael**

Do you remember when, as if by sheer miracle, another met your need with kindness? Can you recall a time when you were able to offer what you had to ease another’s suffering or to welcome their delight? What relief, what peace, what a sense of “this is why we are here.” In this spirit of miraculous miracle of our interweaving lives, we bring our offerings to each other and God.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Pastor Michael**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*(vs 1, 2, 3)*

**Congregation**

***“A Charge to Keep, I Have”***

**UMH#413**

*(Projected on Screen by Power Point)*

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

**GOSPEL LESSON**

***“Mark 6:30-34, 53-56”***

**Pastor Michael**

**SERMON**

***“Looking Out and Letting In”***

**Pastor Michael**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Pastor Michael**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.*

**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.**