

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
August 1, 2021

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*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**Kristin Hammond**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances Gunn**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“Gather Us In”*

**Kristin Hammond**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pam Johnson**

L: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

**P: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.**

L: Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

**P: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.**

L: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

**P: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.**

L: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**P: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**OT SCRIPTURE READING**     *“II Samuel 11:26-12:13”*

**Pam Johnson**

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” Then David's anger was greatly kindled against

the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’” David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Adagio Cantabile”**

**Kristin Hammond**

*2nd movement of Beethoven's Sonata Pathetique*

**PSALTER READING**

**“Psalm 51:1-12”**

**Pam Johnson**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

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

**Pam Johnson**

God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we may

be a model of ministry and unity for all the world to see. In the Strong Name of Christ, we offer our prayer **AMEN**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

People of God, in the name of Christ Jesus, I declare to you: God is our salvation. Out of God's fullness we have received grace upon grace. The peace of the saving Christ be with you all.

### **NT EPISTLE READING**

*“Ephesians 4:1-16”*

**Pam Johnson**

I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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**

Whatever measure of grace and giftedness you have been given, it is enough. From this measure, you are invited to share yourselves with God and with God's world.

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

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** *(vs 1,2,3)* **Congregation**  
**"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"** **UMH#127**

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

**GOSPEL LESSON** **"John 6:24-35"** **Pastor Michael**

**SERMON** **Pastor Michael**

*"There's Room for Everyone at Christ's Table, Always!"*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** **Mary Frances**

**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**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** **Pastor Michael**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** **Pastor Michael**

**LORD'S PRAYER** **Pastor Michael**

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**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.**