

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
August 8, 2021

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*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC** **Kristin Hammond**

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

**CENTERING MUSIC** *“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”* **Kristin Hammond**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand)* **Loel Bresko**

Out of the depths I cry to you. Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that we might serve you with reverence. I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in God’s word I put my hope. Israel, put your hope in the Lord and in God’s unfailing love. Out of the depths I cry to you. Lord, hear my voice.

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

**OT SCRIPTURE READING** *“II Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33”* **Loel Bresko**

And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the Lord has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.” The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.”

And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Be Ye Still”**

**Kristin Hammond**

*(By Wendy Carter of Children of the Day)*

**PSALTER READING**

**“Psalm 130”**

**Lorel Bresko**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen or the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

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

**Lorel Bresko**

O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our unwholesome talk, and our deceitfulness. We try to do good, but sometimes fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely. Without you, we have no hope.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Pastor Michael**

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive us. God provides freely, in the bread of heaven, all the mercy we need for life everlasting. The good news is forgiveness in the name of Christ Jesus.

**NT EPISTLE READING**

**“Ephesians 4:25-5:2”**

**Lorel Bresko**

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit

of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD** **Pastor Michael**  
Nourished by the bread of heaven and the living waters of salvation, let us return thanks to God as we collect today's offering.

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

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** **Congregation**  
*"I Know Whom I Have Believed"* **UMH#714**  
*We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays*

**GOSPEL LESSON** *"John 6:35, 41-51"* **Pastor Michael**

**SERMON** *"The Law of Attraction"* **Pastor Michael**

**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**

**BENEDICTION** **Pastor Michael**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Church Picnic is September 12, 2021.**

**We can start gathering and set up at 10 am, but service will not be until 11:30.**



**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.**