

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
October 10, 2021

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*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*(\*please stand if you are able)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Mary Frances Gunn

**CENTERING MUSIC** “O How He Loves You and Me” Linda Laine

**WORDS OF WELCOME** Pastor Michael

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(If you are able, please stand)* Mary Frances Gunn

L: God has called all God’s people to lives of hope and service.

**P: We want to serve God, but sometimes life gets to be too difficult for us.**

L: Place your trust in God’s power and love.

**P: God understands our needs, our sorrows, and our joys.**

L: Come, let us worship God who is with us always.

**P: Praise God for God’s eternal presence.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Michael

**OT SCRIPTURE READING** “Job 23:1-9, 16-17” Mary Frances Gunn

Then Job answered and said: “Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!

I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; he would pay attention to me. There an upright man could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by my judge. “Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him; on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Two Waltzes” Linda Laine  
*By Franz Schubert*

**PSALTER READING** “Psalm 22:1-15” Mary Frances Gunn

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the

words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (congregation)**

**Mary Francis Gunn**

Merciful God, look kindly upon your human family, we pray. Lord, mend the brokenness that inevitably follows our sinning. If we have been quietly willful or openly rebellious, sending waves of unhappiness among the lives of those around us, Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

If we have become infected by the cheap values and selfish goals of the advertising industry and have found ourselves aping them: Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

If we have allowed our faith to be eroded by the endless chatter of criticism and judgments and have nothing to offer critics who have nothing to offer except their own bitterness and resentments: Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

If we have become so caught up in trivial pursuits that we have little time left for holy wonder and spiritual growth: Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

If we have been wounded by the spite of others, and have turned in on ourselves, nursing our injuries and brooding over revenge: Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

If we have participated in wrongdoing for so long that we no longer feel any regret or desire for repentance; Come Savior God, come and reclaim us.

Jesus Christ, friend of sinners, please never let go of us. Forgive our failings and help us to make amends where we have harmed others. Call us back to the disciplines that flow from faith, that in loving you and one another, we may find that peace and joy for which we were built. Lord, it's through your love and to the praise of your Holy Name, Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read by the Pastor) Pastor Michael**

There is no wrong that God cannot make right. There is no chasm that can separate us from God's love. The Lord is patient and kind, generous and good. God will not forsake you or leave you. Turn to the Lord with confidence and put your faith in God's great mercy. By the power of Jesus Christ, we are made whole. Every moment, God offers us a serving of love and mercy, so we can continue to live as God intends. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God, we are all forgiven, always! **AMEN**

### **NT EPISTLE READING "Hebrews 4:12-16" Mary Frances Gunn**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

As we remember Jesus, we are reminded of just how clearly his life demonstrated the truth that giving is the only proper expression of loving. Surely one can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving. So God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. Jesus challenged the rich man to sell what he had and give to the poor. He challenges us today to be generous in our giving, trusting God's provision for our lives.

### **\*DOXOLOGY Congregation UMH#95**

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Michael**

### **HYMN OF PREPARATION (verses 1-4) Congregation UMH#348** *"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling"* (We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays)

### **GOSPEL LESSON "Mark 10:17-31" Pastor Michael**

**SERMON**      *“Leave the Things of Time, for the Things of Eternity”*      **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 (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

*Church Council meeting today after church.*

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**Charge Conference with Our District Superintendent will be  
Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm at the church.**



**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.**