

**Astoria First United Methodist Church**

*20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 18, 2020*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*“Step by Step”*

**Mary Frances**

**WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Gloria Jones**

As we gather to worship you, Holy One, show us your presence, O God. As we join to pray at your footstool, Exalted One, show us your ways, O God. As we unite our voices to praise you, Lover of Justice, show us your glory, O God. As we tremble in the cleft of the rock, silently awaiting you, Merciful One, show us your goodness, O God. Let the earth shake in your praise, Most High! We extol your great and awesome name, ever-present God!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

**Gloria Jones**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly[a] mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“How Shall I Come Before the Lord”*

**Mary Frances**

**UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSSION**

**Gloria Jones**

God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things— things we can see and touch— and question whether you are really there. Forgive us, Holy One, when we fail to recognize that you are always nearby, patiently waiting for us to recognize your presence and your glory. Help us when we lose our way, and forgive us when we forget to whom we truly belong. Lover of justice, open our eyes to see you; open our ears to hear you; open our hearts to love you; and open our hands to serve you. **AMEN**

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Gloria Jones**

When we cry to God, looking for favor in God's sight, God answers: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Rejoice! You are called the "Beloved of God" and given God's own stamp in your lives. In the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven! Rest in God's mercy! In the Name of Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

### **GOSPEL LESSON**

*Matthew 22:15-22*

**Pastor Michael**

### **SERMON**

*"Motivation and Meaning"*

**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 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.](#)**

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