

Astoria First United Methodist Church

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances

CENTERING MUSIC

“Dona Nobis Pachem”

Stephen Morden

WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Frances

God is an invitation. An opening. A chance to do things differently. Always before us, God is the possibility of transformation. Though everyday ordinary patterns of living, God searches our hearts and makes known what is hidden. Love comes to help us. We are not left powerless to followers of Jesus. We profess and believe. In Christ Jesus our Lord, God’s Spirit walks with us and comes alongside us. The Lord never leaves us without help or support or strength because the very power of Almighty God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, lives in us! **AMEN**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Mary Frances

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

Mary Frances

Lord of mercy and justice, you have given us so many gifts to be used in your world. You have given us these gifts because, through them, we can bring the light of God’s presence and power to the world. You have entrusted with your gifts, you love us and invite us to use them well. You promise to be with us in all our work. Forgive for those times when our fears of rejection or concerns for failure lead us conclude that we are capable of helping in this world. Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us. Give us hearts for serving you all our days. In Jesus’ name we pray. **AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Mary Frances

Rejoice and celebrate! We have God's deep trust and enduring love. God calls to follow and serve. Remember you are loved by God, and as God's beloved child, you have been given countless spiritual gifts which God uses to help and love others. Do not be afraid of these gifts nor be afraid to use these gifts, for God is not only present with you, continually blessing your life. In the Name of Christ our Lord, you are forgiven. AMEN

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Stephen Morden

GOSPEL LESSON

"Matthew 25:14-30"

Pastor Michael

SERMON

"Let's All Stop Being Afraid of God"

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.](#)
