

# Online Edition Appalachia Celebration

August 23, 2020

Online

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Pastor Rob*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord”

*Psalm 95/John Tirro*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving.

**C: Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love.**

L: We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you.

**C: Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

L: Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Rejoice, and be assured that God's love is poured out for you! AMEN.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Beautiful Savior”

**ELW #838**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Assistant*)

L: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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## WORD

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### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING (*Laurie Blanchard*)

Philemon 4-21

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #173

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:34-36

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

SONG OF THE DAY

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

ELW #712

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Assistant*)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: Called together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray for the church, our community, and our world...

L: God of grace,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #185

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

**C: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

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SENDING

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COUNCIL UPDATE

FAREWELL & GODSPEED

BENEDICTION (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Go out into the world in peace; Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"God is On the Move"

*C. Williams, I Eskelin, M. Howard, T. Wood*

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: **Amen.**

POSTLUDE