



August 29, 2021
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Tradition

~LIVESTREAMED TO FACEBOOK~

We are live streaming today's worship service on Facebook, so we want you to know that your presence here today is your agreement and consent to being part of that recording.

~Please continue wearing your mask while in the Sanctuary~

~Please whisper or mouth words during responsive reading~

~Please remain seated and enjoy listening to the music~

~Offering plates will be located at the back of the Sanctuary~

Silent Meditation

"Just because something is traditional is no reason to do it, of course." - Lemony Snicket

Prelude All Good Gifts from Godspell (Schwartz)

Welcome to Worship

One: Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,

ALL: **We welcome you here.**

Opening Comments

Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship (from the Presbyterian Church in Canada)

One: Holy God, you call us to worship.

All: In your presence, we seek truth and forgiveness.

One: Holy God, you call us to worship you.

All: In your presence, we seek the grace to forgive one another.

One: Holy God, you call us to worship you, heart, body, mind and soul.

All: So, we gather to offer you our prayer and praise with joyful thanks.

Opening Song

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also

many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Reflection

“A Guide, Not a Jailer”

Rev. Brent Gundlah

Children’s Chat

Tom Sturgeon

Call to Offering/Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the Community

(If you would like to offer a prayer of gratitude or concern for someone or some situation please use first names for security. The congregation will respond to each prayerful offering with the following words:

“Together with God, we hear your prayers.”)

Pastoral Prayer

Jesus Prayer

**Our Creator who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your reign come, Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For Yours is the reign, the power, and glory for ever. Amen.**

Words of Mission and Benediction

Closing Song

A Simple Song

from Mass (Leonard Bernstein)



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*We are a Whole Earth,
Open and Affirming Congregation
Of the United Church of Christ.*

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Participants in Worship:

**Reader: Nan Sturgeon, Slides: Kyla Asmar, Sound: Chuck Dillard
Music: Carolyn and Tom Klassen, Children's Chat: Tom Sturgeon**

PRAYER REQUESTS

The following are offered for your prayers this morning and in the days ahead:

- Prayers of strength and comfort for all those who live in fear of violence.
- Prayers of support and gratitude for our community of caregivers.
 - Prayers of healing for all who are facing health issues
 - Prayers of comfort for all those in hospice care.