



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

16th Sunday after Pentecost | September 20, 2020

PRELUDE

Meditation

Cecile Chaminade/Callahan

Lynn Auman, violin (*Recorded April 7, 2019*)

*[God] brought [Abram] outside and said,
“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.”
Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”
And he believed the Lord;
and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

Genesis 15:5-6 NRSV

CALL TO WORSHIP

John & Mindy Cardwell, liturgists

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

God’s promise is for all generations. Gen. 9:12

God’s covenant is with every living thing.

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

Let us worship in thanks and praise.

WE SING GOD’S AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

(Recorded March 31, 2019)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

We praise you, creating God!

Your breath gives life,

your love, given freely, sustains it.

We praise you, promise making God!

You promise to be with us **always**,

to love us **no matter what**,

to forgive us **whenever we ask**.

We praise you, promise keeping God!

Both then and now, your promises keep, your covenants hold.

For in Jesus Christ, your faithfulness is proven. Amen.

WE SING GRACE OUR FEARS RELIEVED

AMAZING GRACE

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, like those before us,
sometimes we forget our covenant relationship with you.
When we bow before the false gods of our world,
forgive our unfaithfulness and bring our focus back to you.
When we make “golden calves” of the things we have,
forgive our waywardness and remind us to share what we have with others.
To the fulness of your promise, we pray:
create anew, restore, enlighten, and forgive us, Lord. Amen.

WE SING GOD'S GRACE PROTECTS AND LEADS

AMAZING GRACE

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

My friends, hear these words, and receive their power:
God the Father promises to restore the old and create the new.
God the Son forgives our thoughtlessness and greed.
God the Spirit enlightens our way to wiser living.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

Gail Thomas, Alberta Gisel, Wayne Tillman, Chad Hammer, vocal quartet

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.* (TEXT: Trad. liturgical text P.D. TUNE: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851 P.D.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-6

SERMON

“So, About That Other Promise”

Rev. Laura Viau

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from, A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors' and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WE SING PRAISE OF GOD'S PROMISED GOOD AND HOPE

AMAZING GRACE

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

Alleluia! Laud, and Blessing

WEIRS FLAGGEN

Caiden Murphy, acolyte

Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure;
May God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!.

TEXT: Michael Morgan, 2011. MUSIC: Tochter Sion, 1741. Text © 2011 Michael Morgan (admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources)
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PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. ☺