

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Heights

July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

The Greeting

Prelude

Yes I Will

Words and Music by Marc Byrd,
Steve Hindalong and Bebo Norman

Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains

Shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Let us be still . . . Let us come into God's presence . . .

AND LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

Gathering Hymn

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
(Verses 1-3-4)

#645

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation, the God of power,
the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,

As with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

Prayer of Invocation

Lord God, in these times of fear . . . uncertainty . . . high anxiety:

It Is natural. It is so tempting. It is so easy . . . to become negative.

Fear-driven. Anxious. Hopeless. And depressed.

We watch the news. We listen to the news. And it is so easy to become ‘down’ and depressed. This, Lord, is the reality in which we live. And there is no escaping it. We listen to the news that we are ‘knee-deep’ in the first wave. And we wonder:

“When will this ever end? Will it ever end?”

Our Heavenly Father: we ask You . . . inject us with a spirit of positivity. A spirit of hope. A renewal of faith that not only sustains . . . but empowers us to see where and how You are at work in our lives and in our world.

And Lord . . . help us to become a people of hope and faith who transmit this hope and faith to others. Amen.

Hymn

We Are God's People
(Verses 1-3-4)

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;

He wills us to be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

The Prayers of the People and the Disciple's Prayer

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.

Reading of the Word

Matthew 4:18-19; 11:28-30; 28:19;
Mark 3:13-14;
John 20:21
Ephesians 4:15

Matthew 4:18-19; 11:28-30; 28:19

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

28 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Mark 3:13-14

13 He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles,[a] to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message,

John 20:21

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Ephesians 4:15

15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

....This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

*Lord, Whose Love
in Humble Service*

Words by Albert F. Bayly,
Music: Traditional American
Melody,
arranged for duet by Michael Goetjen

Proclamation

A Time NOT For
Returning to '*Normal*' . . .
But a Time to Proceed Toward '*Better*'!"

Pastor George

Theme: A close look at three vital verbs that are the foundation
of a *reborn church*, a *revitalized church* and a *resurgent church*.

Closing Hymn

Go in Grace and Make Disciples
(Verses 1-2)

#296

Go in grace and make disciples.
Baptize in God's holy name.
Tell of death and resurrection;
Easter's victory now proclaim.

Christ's commission sends us forth
to the nations of the earth.
Go in grace and make disciples,
midwives for the world's rebirth.

Go and follow Christ's example,
not to vanquish, but to heal.
Mend the wounds of sin's divisions.
Servant love to all reveal.
Roles and ranks shall be reversed;
justice flow for all who thirst.
Go and follow Christ's example.
Forge a world of last made first.

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Love Moved First

Words and Music by Mark Hall,
Matthew West and Bernie Herms

*We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of His Spirit, established by His Word.
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk to heart and hand in hand.*

First Verse of "We are God's People"

Thank You For Serving!
Pastor George Betz, Michael Goetjen,
Jane Sahrer, Corry Minkema
Dave Christie, and Jim Roselli

If you have been blessed by this Service, tell a friend.
Also, please consider contributing to our Church and its Ministry.

Proclamation Notes
“A Time NOT For Returning to ‘Normal’ . . .
But a Time to Proceed Toward ‘Better!’”

Texts: Matthew 4:18-19; 11:28-30; 28:19; Mark 3:13-14; John 20:21; Ephesians 4:15

Preparation

What does it mean for you personally to ‘*return to normal*’? Is a return to ‘*normal*’ desirable? Or . . . a return to . . .

For a church . . . this church ---What might a ‘*new normal*’ look like? What might ‘*better*’ look like?

Outline & Notes

A return to ‘*basics*’ is desirable and needed. Why?

Who are our current-day prophets? What kind of church *produces* a Biblical prophet?

For a church . . . what are the right questions to ask --- and what are the wrong questions?

Three Vital Verbs

I. COME

The necessity of ‘*being converted*’. A decision to “*follow Jesus*”. What does this mean? Many people are ‘*committed*’ --- but have never been ‘*converted*’. What does this mean . . . and . . . why is this a problem?

Piety and *politics* can never be separated. (Charles Finney and abolitionism) Why? The implications:

II. GROW

What are effective ways of growing people in their personal faith?

III. GO

Jesus calls His followers the “*salt of the earth*”. What does it mean for Westminster . . . or any church . . . to “*get the salt out of the saltshaker*”?

“*A world at its worst . . . needs a church at its best!*” (James Forbes)

What does it mean to be a “*church at its best*”? A church that . . .

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Prayers of comfort and love for the Gonzales family, upon the loss of Milt Gonzales.

Prayers of comfort and love for the Sandorse family, upon the loss of Jean Sandorse.

Prayers of comfort and love for Dianne Dwyer and the Dwyer family,
upon the loss of Dianne's sister, Phyllis.

Fred Brugmans, recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Janet Eagler, Dave Christie's sister, for comfort and healing.

Janet Stevens, for healing.

Amanda Sclarice , recovering from heart surgery.

Bob Dwyer, *for strength and comfort.*

Tom Maholchic, *healing of his ears.*

Lucas Reiling, *fighting brain cancer.*

Craig Sclarice, *for healing.*

For all suffering from cancer and for a cure of this disease in our lifetime.

For God's guidance on our future.

For healing of relationships.

For those who have lost their jobs.

The men and women serving in our armed services throughout the world.

If someone is hospitalized and/or in need of a minister, please let the church office know.
Hospitals no longer inform churches when someone is admitted, due to HIPPA laws.

If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please let the church office know. The prayer request will be listed for a month and then removed. If you would like the request listed for a longer period of time, simply let the office know.