

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Heights

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Greeting

Pastor George

Prelude

The Very Next Thing

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

Call to Worship

Werner Witschi

This is the day the Lord has made.

This is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

This is the day we celebrate the power of His resurrection . . .

A power that makes ALL things new and ALL things possible.

Knowing these truths . . . Let us worship God!

Hymn

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!
(Verses 1-2-3)

#305

Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led
us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now
and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone,
and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch
the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now
and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend;
let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify
the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now
and praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Werner Witschi

Risen and present Lord: We continue to celebrate

Your resurrection . . . and the assurance that nothing
can separate us from Your love.

Again, we take time to give You thanks for your many

blessings: The phone call that came at just the right time.

The strong word of encouragement that lifted us when we were down.

The friend . . . the neighbor who was there to help and comfort.

And Lord: We also give you thanks for those faithful and steadfast

people who 'keep things going' in the midst of these trying and challenging times:

. . . The people who teach our children and grandchildren and all the challenges

They face as they 'do school' differently and creatively.

. . . The people who keep the flow of essential goods . . . flowing.

. . . The people who serve faithfully and valiantly in health care ---

Lord protect them and keep them safe.

. . . Law enforcement people who keep us safe. Keep *them* safe and healthy.

. . . All people who go about their work with diligence, competence, commitment and
love.

Risen Lord: again we thank You for the gift of faith. Continue to grow us

in our faith . . . help us grow in our faithfulness to You. Amen.

Reading of the Word

Genesis 12:1-3;
Exodus 3:1-6

Werner Witschi

Genesis 12:1-3

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Exodus 3:1-6

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Special Music

Only Jesus

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

The Prayers of the People and the Disciple’s Prayer

Pastor George

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.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, as you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, as you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, as you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Reading of the Word

Mark 3:13-15;
John 15:16

Werner Witschi

Mark 3:13-15

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, 15 and to have authority to cast out demons.

John 15:16

16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

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

Thanks be to God.

Proclamation

“Chosen.. Called.. Empowered.. Sent” Pastor George

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go . . .”

---John 15:16---

Closing Hymn

Called as Partner's in Christ's Service

#761

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

Charge & Benediction

Pastor George

Postlude

Love Moved First

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

“The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease . . . “
--- Verse 2 of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ---

Thank You For Serving!
Pastor George Betz, Michael Goetjen,
Maggie Gonzales, Werner Witschi,
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

“Chosen . . . Called . . . Empowered . . . Sent!”

Text: Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 3:1-6; Mark 3:13-15; John 15:16

Key Text: ***“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go . . .”***

Jesus speaking then . . . and . . . now! (John 15:16)

Preparation

What is wrong with calling the church . . . this church . . . a *volunteer organization*?

If someone were to ask you, “What is your *calling* . . . your *vocation* --- how would you respond?

Outline & Notes

How do you respond to the Wall Street Journal piece, **“How to Retire at 35”** ?

Career vs. *Calling*: What’s the difference?

The problem of basing your life (and your identity) on your job . . . your career.

God as **‘Caller’** and us as **‘Call-ees’**. This means:

Can you think of and name any people you know who are truly living out a ‘calling’?
Name them. And learn from them!

Note John Meacham’s new book, **His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope**. Take time to think about and reflect on John Lewis’s life and his strong sense of being called by God. How does his life speak to you? Does it inspire you? Convict you? Why?

A wonderful word from the movie, **Chariots of Fire**. Eric Liddell . . . world-class sprinter and Presbyterian Missionary-to-be says to his fiancée: ***“Jenny, I know the Lord has made me for a purpose . . . but I also know the Lord has made me fast. When I run . . . I feel the Lord’s pleasure!”***

Question: **How has the Lord made you ‘fast’?**

My action plan

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 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.**