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Reverend Jim Harper III, Pastor

July 3, 2016 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

OPENING OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

John Innes

***Opening Words of Worship** (Responsively)

Let us sing praises to God, all you faithful ones,
And give thanks to the God of Our Fathers.

God does not abandon us in our distress.
God's healing presence restores us to life.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
**Indeed, God turns our mourning into dancing;
God takes off our sackcloth and clothes us with joy.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God, and not be silent.
God of Our Fathers, we will give thanks to you forever!

— adapted from a prayer found
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*** Please stand if you are able**

***Opening Song #573**

God of Our Fathers

***Opening Prayer**

God of Our Fathers,
we give you thanks for all the blessings we experience—
the freedom to worship you without fear,
the bounty and diversity of your creation,
and the precious gift of unexpected joy.

As we draw near to you this hour,
may we immerse ourselves in your healing presence.

Refresh us and renew us
that we might become faithful laborers
in your harvest of peace, justice, and joy.
We pray in the name of our great Healer,
Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

— adapted from a prayer found
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***Prayer of Confession** (Responsively)

O God, we know that Jesus sent out his disciples
without purse, luggage, or sandals.

All too often, we find ourselves clinging to possessions we don't need,
looking for safety by avoiding risk,
and bearing heavy burdens that slow us down.

Forgive us for our reluctance to travel lightly and heal us of our pain and guilt.

Forgive us and heal us, O God.

Holy One, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Galatians not to grow weary,
but to use every opportunity to work for the good of all.

And yet, hectic schedules, competing demands, cynicism, and doubt

erode our commitment and leave us feeling burned out.
Forgive us for any hollow excuses we are tempted to make
and heal us of our exhaustion.

Forgive us and heal us, O God.

O God, we confess
we sometimes think you only
perform great complicated acts
in flashy and dramatic ways.

We then fail to see how you are at work
in the simple tasks and ordinary experiences of everyday life.
Forgive us for our misunderstanding and heal us of our sightlessness.

Forgive us and heal us, O God.

***Silent Prayer/Assurance of Pardon**

There is no pain that God cannot heal.
There is no wrong that God cannot forgive.
Come, immerse yourselves in the healing waters of God's forgiveness.
Come and be restored. Let God make you whole.

**Thanks be to our God
and the same God of Our Fathers!**

Amen.

— adapted from a prayer found
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***Gloria Patri** (Unison)

Henry W. Greatorex (From Red Hymnal #623)

**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.**

***Welcome to Our Guest(s)**

*After you fill out a Guest Card, please place it in the offertory plate later in the service.
Greet one another and pass along the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
You may say, "Peace be with you." The response is "And also with you."*

Celebrating Our Lives and Faith Together

SHARING OF GOD'S STORY

Scriptures of the Day

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Seventy-Two Sent Out

10 After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.

³ Go! Be warned, though, that I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don't even greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.' ⁶ If anyone there shares God's peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. ⁷ Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don't move from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.' ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a city and the people don't welcome you, go out into the streets and say, ¹¹ 'As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God's kingdom has come to you.'

¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The Seventy-Two Return

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name.”

¹⁸ Jesus replied, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority to crush snakes and scorpions underfoot. I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, don’t rejoice because the spirits submit to you. Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven.”

~ Scripture Reading from the Common English Bible (CEB)

Meditation

Where Does Jesus Need Us To Go?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior #426 (Unison)

The Lord’s Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND GOD’S GIFTS

Call to Give/Prayer of Dedication (Responsively)

Jesus sent out seventy disciples to share in his ministry
by healing the sick and proclaiming
that the kingdom of God has come near.
As Jesus’ disciples in this time and place,
We hear Christ's call to consider

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* Please stand if you are able

how we can continue this ministry.
Each of us has so much that we can offer.

Let us share what we have joyfully
so that our generosity may demonstrate
how God's realm of justice
and healing has come near.

Amen.

Amen.

Offertory

This Is My Song

(#591 New Century Hymnal)
Lloyd Stone/Jean Sibelius
Eva Morse, Vocalist

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

God, you are before all things;
You are beyond all things;
And in the midst of all things and all peoples
you have made yourself known.

In Israel's ancient codes and prophetic oracles,
in stories of women and men,
of communities and nations
seeking identity,
feeling their strength,
and struggling with their weakness
you have made yourself known.

In Jesus of Nazareth,
in compassion for the outcast,
forgiveness for the fallen,
hope for the poor and hungry;
in his life poured out for others

and broken in rejection and disdain
you have made yourself known.

Therefore we join our praises
with countless men and women before us,
disciples and apostles,
saints and martyrs,
acclaiming your power in goodness
and your might in compassion,
as we say/sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We greet the one who comes in your name,
your true light, your true love,
the bread of compassion,
the wine of renewal.

As he broke bread before the brokenness of his death,
as he poured out wine before his blood was poured out on the cross,
as he gave his life in acts of goodness,
as he invited all to the feast of new hope,
so come to us, God of Jesus, in your love.

Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love,
and let the bread and wine before us
bear your life to our life,
nourish us with his vision of hope,
and unite us in one body of peace.

Nourish us with your brokenness,
Renew us with your poured out life,
Empower us with your powerlessness,
that we may take root in your risen life
and bear fruit in your world.

**You are our life;
You are our hope;
You are our peace;
And we praise you.**

~ adapted from a part of a longer Eucharistic prayer
written by Bill Loader, on William Loader's Home Page.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Gifts of Spiritual Life

*The sharing of this table is open to all who humbly walk with God
and who take following Jesus seriously.
The inner ring is grape juice. The outer rings are wine.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for These Gifts of Spiritual Life

CLOSING OF WORSHIP

****Closing Hymn/Prayer For America***

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,*

***And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!***

O God, forgive our mindless exploitation of this bountiful land.
Forgive us for fouling our air, contaminating our water,
disfiguring our landscape.

And grant us vision and courage to right these wrongs.

***O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!***

***America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!***

O God, forgive us for knowing so little about our heritage
and for caring less. Forgive us for taking the faith and wisdom
of our ancestors for granted.

And grant us vision and courage to right these wrongs.

***O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine!***

Forgive us, O God, for having grown soft and flabby,
more concerned about what our country can do for us
than about what we can do for our country.

Forgive us for admiring the costly sacrifices of others
while inventing cut-rate excuses for ourselves.

And grant us vision and courage to right these wrongs.

***O beautiful for patriot dreams
That sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam***

***Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!***

Forgive, O God, our fear of dreaming grand,
wonderful dreams of justice and mercy in our land
and peace among the nations.

Forgive our daily failures in doing what we can
to make such dreams come true
because what we can do
seems so little in the face of needs so vast.

And grant us vision and courage to right these wrongs.

***America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!***

— adapted from a litany found @ homiletics online

***Closing Words of Worship** (Responsively)

Our worship has ended,
But now our service begins!
Go from this place for you
and I are the body of Christ
and the whole world awaits us;
So live passionately, and love faithfully,
and celebrate every moment of your life
from now until the Finale.
Our God of relentless grace goes with us!
Amen.

Amen.

~ Adapted from a prayer written by The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

Postlude

Battle Hymn of the Republic
Traditional American Melody

CCLI 1130980 CVLI 501138630
