

SUNDAY
1/16/22
10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
Deb Verdegan, Piano

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & INVITATION TO OFFERING
Rev. Cathy Christman

INTROIT *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord, God Almighty*
Deb Verdegan, Piano

CENTERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER

L: "Often people attempt to live their lives backwards, they try to have more things or more money in order to do more of what they want so that they will be happier. The way it actually works is the reverse. You must first be who you really are then do what you need to do in order to have what you want." (Margaret Young)

The journey to perfection in love, as taught to us by John Wesley, is a life-long process in experiencing sanctifying grace. Through this process we learn authenticity, a conscious choice of how we want to live. There is no mystery in authenticity. We learn what makes us feel hopeful and exhausted. We learn the value of being real not only with each other but also with our great God. "Authenticity is the daily practice of letting go of who we think we're supposed to be and embracing who we are." (Brené Brown)

As we consider Paul and the early church, we seek to know the sanctified heart that Wesley taught, that Paul longed for and that Jesus calls for us. We seek a heart that is filled with the love of God and neighbor as well as having the mind of Jesus. It does not take big words, deep traditions or even just a knowledge of Jesus to make this happen. Jesus invites us into a relationship seeking perfection and to hold in our hearts that perfect love is possible. Through that, through our experience in sanctifying grace, our beliefs will lead us further down the path of faith.

God, we read of the church at Corinth and find ourselves among the people. We are not perfect. As we worship you this day, help us to make the courageous choice to celebrate who we are as your children. We are truly created in your image. When we choose to be authentic with you and each other, the world around us will struggle and we may be tempted to squash the voice of grace in our lives. Open our ears and hearts now to hear your good news made real to us by our relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. With Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER SONG *Surely, the Presence of the Lord*
Deb Verdegan, Piano

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5

L: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

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THANK YOU TO LITURGIST/READER, EMILY BRANTMEYER, CHOIR/BELLS, & OUR AUDIO/VISUAL STAFF FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE TODAY.

CHURCH STAFF

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