



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 13, 2021

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Sharie Buskager

Ushers: Myron Sime, Michael Gerard, Jim Lunde, Dan Matson

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Old Hundreth” Bourgeois/Callahan

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #858 ELW vs. 1 & 4

**vs. 1: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

**vs. 4: Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” #836 ELW vs. 1 & 2

vs. 1: Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,

praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness,

fill us with the light of day.

vs. 2: All thy works with joy surround thee,

earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,

stars and angels sing around thee,

center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

low'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird,

and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM: “Joy in the Journey” Card

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²⁻²⁴ “GOD, the Master, says, I personally will take a shoot from the top of the towering cedar, a cutting from the crown of the tree, and plant it on a high and towering mountain, on the high mountain of Israel. It will grow, putting out branches and fruit—a majestic cedar. Birds of every sort and kind will live under it. They’ll build nests in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will recognize that I, GOD, made the great tree small and the small tree great, made

the green tree turn dry and the dry tree sprout green branches. I, GOD, said it—and I did it.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “I Love to Tell the Story” #661 ELW

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 4th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶⁻²⁹ Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

³⁰⁻³² “How can we picture God’s kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It’s like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it.”

³³⁻³⁴ With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #807 ELW

vs.1: Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

**streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**

**vs. 2: Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**vs. 3: Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESION

P: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A Brief Silence

P: Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so

that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician(s). We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'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 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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION: "Thine the Amen"

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us ✝ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "On What Has Now Been Sown" #550 ELW

**vs. 1: On what has now been sown your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.**

O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise!

**vs. 3: Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here,
may meet together thus when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

POSTLUDE: "Lord, Dismiss Us With your Blessing" set by Callaban

Welcome to worship! May the Holy Spirit bless and nourish us as we worship together. We hope that you come again soon! If you are worshipping with us for the first time and would like more information about our congregation, please ask Pastor Paula.

Altar Flowers are given by Judy Hoffman in honor of her birthday.

Senior Outing, this Thursday, June 17, 10:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. approximate cost: \$20 for the Pontoon Ride/\$16 for Lunch. Sign up at the Information Desk or call Gloria at the church office, 873-9353.

We are collecting for Global Health Ministries. There is a table in the Narthex on which you may place items you would like to donate for the kits. Pick up the list of items needed for the kits. Items will be collected during the month of July.

Ladies Night Out, Thursday, August 12! Save the date! Due to Covid it might not look like past Ladies Nights Out, but it will definitely be a good time. More news to come in the July Ambassador.

Thrivent T-Shirts: We have a new supply of t-shirts. Pick one up today!

If you wish to gather with others after worship we have picnic tables set up outside on the back patio or in the picnic area!