

Contemporary Worship

August 16, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 20

*God's love is for all people,
especially those who have been pushed aside or made to feel like outsiders.
In today's gospel, a Canaanite woman boldly asks Jesus to heal her daughter.
Her persistent faith reminds us to trust God
and to recognize that no one is beyond God's care and love.
As we gather around word and meal, God strengthens us to welcome all people
and to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice in the world.*

GATHERING MUSIC

By Faith – Getty/Townend

*By faith, we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.
By faith, our fathers roamed the earth with the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand – a place where peace and justice reign.
We will stand as children of the promise, we will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.
By faith, the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death, and rise triumphant from the grave.
By faith, the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news, in every corner of the earth.
By faith, this mountain shall be moved and the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name.*

WELCOME

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

Praise Awaits You, O God

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

Chorus: Praise awaits You, O God, as Your people gather,
We rejoice in Your name.
Praise awaits You, O God, hear Your children singing,
We exalt You today, we exalt You today.

Verse 1: Blessed are those who choose to praise You;
They will be filled with Your goodness and joy.
You are the hope of all creation, You gave us salvation,
You gave us Your Son, and we will worship You now...*chorus*

Verse 2: Even though sin has overwhelmed us,
You have been faithful, O Lord to forgive.
Only through Christ we find redemption, He gave us salvation,
He gave us His life, and we will worship You now...*chorus*

"Praise Awaits You" words and music by Don Chapman

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HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

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

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

God, We Gather as Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Merciful God,”

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

Mighty to Save – Fielding/Morgan

As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a savior. The hope of nations.*

*Savior, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.
Forever, author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.*

*So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures.
Fill my life again. I give my life to follow.
Everything I believe in, now I surrender.*

*Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: We come before God just as we are.
We bring our faith and our doubts, our hopes and our fears.
We know that we do not always trust God or live as people of love.
In this moment, we can be honest about where we have fallen short.
God already knows us and loves us.
We come not to be judged,
but to receive mercy, forgiveness, and a new beginning.
Let us open our hearts to God and confess together.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Loving God,
Assembly: we confess that we do not always trust you.
We hold on to fear, doubt, and control
instead of placing our lives in your hands.
Forgive us when we turn away from you
and when we fail to see your love in others.
Forgive us when we make room for some
and leave others feeling like outsiders.
Open our hearts.
Strengthen our faith.
Teach us to trust your love
and to welcome all people as your beloved children.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.*

Leader: The table is prepared.
 Come, share in the feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Communion Meditation – *Morning Sunrise* – Cornelius Gurlitt

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace...

Come to the table of love...

Come to the table of joy...

Words & Music: Barbara Hamm ©2008 Barbara Hamm

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

we give you thanks for meeting us at this table
and nourishing us with your love.

Strengthen our faith and deepen our trust in you.

When we are uncertain, remind us that you are near.

When we are afraid, give us courage to follow your way.

You have welcomed us with grace.

Send us now to welcome others with that same grace.

Help us see and honor the dignity of every person,
to make room for those who feel left out,
and to live as a community where all are valued and loved.

Renew us through this meal

and make us instruments of your peace,
your mercy, and your hope.

We give thanks for your unfailing love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go now in the blessing of God.

May the God who loves you give you faith when the way is uncertain,
trust when you cannot see what lies ahead,
and courage to follow where love leads.

May Christ remind you that you are never alone
and that God's grace is wide enough to welcome every person.

May the Spirit fill you with compassion,
open your hearts to one another,
and send you into the world as people of hope, peace, and welcome.

Go in faith.

Go in trust.

Go knowing that you are loved—and that all people are held in God's love.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

God Welcomes All

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second line of music corresponds to the lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.

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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Live by faith,
 trust in God,
 and share Christ's love with all people.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Willa Soller, Communion Meditation Pianist
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of his parents, Clarence & Helen Reed,
by Clarence & Lyn Reed.*

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