

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – Email Missal**

The ZOOM link for this Sunday's service, which opens at 9:45 am on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here:

Sunday Worship July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463612819?pwd=Nzg5eUwyd3h3REJLc1VoWmFXSDlMdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819

Passcode: 651484

**You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):** (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+16473744685,,86463612819#,,, \*651484# Canada

+16475580588,,86463612819#,,, \*651484# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 864 6361 2819

Passcode: 651484

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdCFUDkKyC>

**Announcements:**

**MAPLE SYRUP:** You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter's. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic. **1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are \$22.00.** Contact the church office to place your order(s) at 519-653-4721.

**St. Peter's Land Acknowledgement:**

**Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land**

Click here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW # 796 'How Firm a Foundation' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/TxDIMF6P77E>

(Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt., Text and Music Public Domain)

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

**Prayer of the Day:** God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**The First Reading:** **Ezekiel 2:1-5**

A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” Whether they hear or refuse to hear for they are a rebellious house, they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. (NRSV)  
Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

### **Psalm: Psalm 123**

To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.

***As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,***

***so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.***

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

***too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,***

***and of the derision of the proud.\****

(From sundaysandseasons.com.

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### **The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

(NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

### **The Holy Gospel according to Mark 6:1-13**

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

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey

except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.\***

### **Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here)**

In today’s Gospel reading, Mark tells us that Jesus is going back home. It is not his first time going back home since he started his ministry.

In the same book, the last time Jesus went back home was recorded in chapter 3, not too long ago. That time Jesus worked so hard healing the sick and telling the good news of God’s kingdom that he couldn’t find time to eat and to sleep. His family thought Jesus was “out of his mind” (3:21), and Mark told us that his mother Mary and his brothers tried to take charge of him and take him home. But surprisingly, Jesus seemed not so happy about their disturbance. When he was told that his mother and brothers were seeking him, Jesus’ response was “who are my mother and my brothers?” ... And then Jesus looked at those seated around him and said: “here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” What point do you think Jesus was trying to make out of this rather strange statement? Maybe he was trying to point out the limit of his family’s sight – they thought they knew Jesus so well, but these “knowledge” and “insights” somehow blocked their eyes from seeing Jesus as more than an obedient son and a loving brother.

This time Jesus comes back home again. And this time, regardless of his powerful preaching and teaching and even miracles he performed, people of his hometown dishonor him because people thought that they knew him so well that they couldn’t see him as more than a carpenter, more than a son of his mother, or a brother of his ordinary sisters and brothers. Especially for those who knew even the detailed dynamics of Jesus’ family, those who knew the conflicts and stories of this family, we can imagine how difficult it could have been for them to put faith in Jesus, son of Joseph, brother of James.

Amazingly Mark tells us that Jesus could not do any miracles there because of their lack of faith. Jesus’ family and the people of his hometown became the obstacles of his ministry. Isn’t it something?

Jesus must have been very frustrated at this moment. When we are told that Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith, it was rather a sad amazement. When you heard this passage being read, did it also remind you about your family relationship? If you were able to draw a map of the physical and emotional relationships that formed you, do you dare to show it to people of the church? If people know the lifelong conflict between you and your mother; if they know the tension with your children at home; if they know your story of divorce and remarriage; if they know the emotional abuse you’ve been experiencing for a long time, do you think we can still worship here and serve as leaders of the church? Sadly, Christians can also look down on others because of their heritage and their families – as if God’s love for us and his salvation are based on our work, on our lives, on our family, on what we can offer to God, to church and to other people.

This is what makes it such a blessing to have this text before us today. In the second part of today’s reading, Jesus was not limited by the existing family and social relationships he had. He went to other places and he also sent out all his disciples to bring new people to the family of God. By his life, death and resurrection, Jesus made people members of God’s kingdom, children of his Heavenly Father, and coworkers of his saving ministry.

Jesus came into one human family 2000 years ago, but he didn’t limit himself to only one family. He took upon himself the sin of all families; he reconnected the brokenness of all family relationships. Because of

Jesus' death and resurrection, there is now nothing that can separate human beings from God and from one another.

In the book of Hebrews, it is written: "Jesus is not ashamed to call his people brothers and sister." (2:11) Jesus is not ashamed to call you brother and sister and a member of God's family. And he wants us to accept people with broken relationships as he did to us. And he will send us out to preach the good news of the coming of his kingdom, and to make people part of his kingdom. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW # 396 'Spirit of Gentleness' (Bradley Moggach – piano & vocal)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/Ww7lx8t7Ls0>

(Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940; Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
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### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice and Don. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Our minds and our hearts can barely fathom the numbers of Indigenous children lost to the Residential School System in Canada. Their families and their communities were forever changed by cruelty done in your name. We grieve the loss of generations of Indigenous children. Lord you know that the depth of pain we feel is small compared to the pain felt by the families of these children. Give us strength and courage to stand with our Indigenous siblings as they seek answers and demand justice. Help us to more fully demonstrate that you are a God of love and compassion who also grieves the loss of these little ones. Lord, the names of these precious souls may never be known to us, but they have always been known to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, we pray for all of the people in the devastating partial condo building collapse in Surfside Florida. We pray that you will welcome into your eternal rest those who have lost their lives, and comfort their families in their grief. Lord, protect and guide the first responders and volunteers as they search through the debris looking for your precious children, and help the leaders investigate and understand how this tragedy happened, so that it can be prevented in the future. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom.  
 Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all.  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen**

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal:** Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

**Prayer after Communion**

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.  
 Amen

**Blessing:**

The blessing of God,  
 who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
 ☩ be upon you now and forever.  
 Amen.

**Sending Hymn:** ELW # 659 'Will You Let Me Be Your Servant' (Bradley Moggach – piano)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/pT-YrmucWgo>

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**Dismissal:**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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