

June 27th, 2021 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on June 27th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship June 27th, 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.

Announcement from Menno Homes - Thank you from MennoHomes! Our Out-Spok'n XI bike-a-thon was held on the weekend of June 12th raising over \$70,000. All funds will go towards the final construction costs of our new project in Kitchener. Tenants have already started moving in! You can see some pictures of our virtual ride participants here: <https://tinyurl.com/2343aes8> and learn more about where the funds will go here: <https://mennohomes.com/a-place-to-call-home/> **Thank You!** www.mennohomes.com

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 834 'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3r2zBsW7Cg>

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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: Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

The First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
 his mercies never come to an end;
 they are new every morning;
 great is your faithfulness.
 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
 "therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
 to the soul that seeks him.
 It is good that one should wait quietly
 for the salvation of the LORD.
 It is good for one to bear
 the yoke in youth,
 to sit alone in silence
 when the Lord has imposed it,
 to put one's mouth to the dust
 (there may yet be hope),
 to give one's cheek to the smiter,
 and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not
 reject forever.
 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
 according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
 for he does not willingly afflict
 or grieve anyone. (NRSV)

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

Psalm: Psalm 30

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up
 and have not let my enemies triumph ^l over me.

***O LORD my God, I cried ^l out to you,
 and you restored me to health.***

You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;
 you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

***Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful;
 give thanks in holy remembrance.***

God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.
 Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

***While I felt secure, I said,
 "I shall never be disturbed.***

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
 Then you hid your face, and I was ^l filled with fear.

I cried to you, O LORD;

I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

O LORD, be my helper."

You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

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The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

"The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little." (NRSV)

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

Gospel Acclamation: 'Listen, Listen to the Gospel Message....' (Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: # <https://youtu.be/X2jHYEsLg8A>

Text & Music: Bradley Moggach; Copyright reserved. © 2021

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 5:21-43

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping

and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (NRSV)

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

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

Today’s 2nd reading is an ideal text for preaching about generous giving.

Talking about generous giving, I remember a story I heard years ago at an evangelical meeting from a preacher. The story is told that more than 2000 years ago, there was a blind beggar who always sat by the roadside and asked for food and spare money. One day the most famous King Alexander the Great was passing by. All other people were scared and hid their faces in the dirt. But this blind beggar raised his voice asking for help. The great king stopped by him and gave him a bag of gold coins. All the people on the street were astonished at his generosity. One of Alexander’s followers whispered to him, “My Lord, copper coins would meet a beggar’s need. Why give him gold?” Alexander responded, “Copper coins would suit the beggar’s need, but gold coins suit the manner of Alexander’s giving.” At the end, the preacher commended that generous giving is important, but the manner of giving is much more than that.

In his 2nd letter to the Corinthian church, very plainly and directly, Paul asks the Corinthian church to give generously, and at the same time give willingly. But here Paul uses a very different approach on the topic of generous giving. In this passage, Paul doesn’t see offering as an act of gratitude as we usually see. Paul doesn’t argue that God has done so much for us and we ought to show our gratitude by our financial gifts. There is nothing about paying back God’s generosity. There is nothing about secret rewards in this life or the life beyond.

On the contrary, in verse 6 of chapter 8, Paul calls generous giving the “act of grace on our part”. And one verse later, he urges the Corinthian church to “excel in this grace of giving”. For Paul the same grace demonstrated by Jesus’ death and resurrection for our failure and sin also generates action of generous giving when we become part of this grace.

Paul believes that generous giving is never inwardly focused; rather, it shall be outwardly focused always. For Paul generous giving is all about living a Christ-shaped life. Christians’ generous giving is an appeal to love, to join God’s love. That is why the Macedonian churches mentioned in Paul’s letter were so eager and even urgently pleaded to give generously even when they were suffering extreme poverty.

In the same evangelical meeting I mentioned before, I heard another story. It is a true story that happened 20 something years ago in China. It was late 1980’s, when China was not as wealthy as it is today, a group of church leaders, lay and clergy, visited China and got a chance to join some local churches’ Sunday worship. An older Chinese lady from LA area chose to visit a church across the river from Nanjing, a poor church composed of farmers. The 900 who were present at the service wanted to hear a word from their sister from the states, so Mrs. Chang brought greetings from her church in Los Angeles. She told how the Lord had added many to their church and how they were currently building a large new addition. Then after a word of blessing for this church, she took her seat. At the close of the worship time, Mrs. Chang was called back to the front. The pastor said her words had thrilled their members’ hearts. They wanted her to have that morning’s offering to help with the new building in Los Angeles. It was about US\$140, full of small bills and coins. When their overflowing grace welled up in generosity, they gave beyond their ability, and they gave in a manner of kings and queens.

Paul says to the Corinthians, “I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others.” Do you also hear the challenge in your ears?

Hymn of the Day: ‘Lead Kindly Light’ (Bradley Moggach – piano, Robb Wilson - vocal)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/CFQa4orSziE>

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Prayers of Intercession:

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Linda, Alice and Don. Surround them with your unwavering presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, we grieve with our Muslim siblings as they deal with yet one more incident in a long history of tragic acts of racial and religious violence. We pray for the entire Afzaal family and especially young Fayeze as he recovers from his injuries from the recent vicious and deliberate attack. We ask for peace in our communities for people of all races and religions and we pray that you would show us the way to true solidarity and justice. 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.**

We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that *with Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, and all your saints* we may be reunited with one another in the last days. 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 # 808 'Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: **<https://youtu.be/SNNani5BbPc>**

(Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931

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Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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