



August 18, 2020

Well, Summer is going out with a bang, isn't it? So hot this week! I was pleased it worked out that we were not worshipping on the patio on Sunday, with 101 forecast!

We WILL worship, however, this **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 am** in the Patio/Courtyard/Parking Lot as we have in

the past few weeks. Here's your list of what to bring:

Chair (we will have a few if you can't)

SUNHAT! Or umbrella

Communion elements – bread and wine or juice

**Wear your MASK**

Be prepared to social distance

Call the office at 503 364 6041 to RSVP. There is space for about 8 cars to park alongside and listen to the worship. If you are in a car, you will not be required to mask, and you don't have to RSVP (although we would like you to). SEE YOU THEN!

*I MISS COFFEE HOUR! Sometimes I think the best thing about coffee hour is the opportunity to find out what's going on in people's lives! If you have 'newsy items' about your life, let us know in the office, and we'll chat about them.*

*Here's a few newsy items both happy and sad– Victoria Odell just graduated with an Associates Degree! Great Job, Victoria. Kathy Barker's dear sister Mary died this week. Our hearts are with you, Kathy and our prayers ascend! Gary Strand and Kathy Barker collaborated on a beautiful table in our narthex (at the window to the sanctuary). So nice, thank you both. Our Scholarship recipients (recognized in worship August 23) McKenna Falkenstein-Barker, Caleb Sell, and Victoria Odell. (BIG thank you to Steve Tweet, and all the Endowment Committee!)*

*If you have a newsy item, please call the office or email us, and we'll get it in!*

**COMING UP** – This week – Council Tuesday, Better Together Racial equality Group Wednesday at 6 pm and Thursday, "What is God Saying today?" at 5. (see the zoom page for details) We're busy here at Holy Cross. Stay well, and pray without ceasing!

Pastor Patricia!

## **Zoom opportunities coming up! (Week of Aug 16-23)**

We really are *Better Together in Salem, Oregon*. The three ELCA churches, St. Mark, Christ the Good Shepherd and Holy Cross have a few Zoom opportunities scheduled for the near future. Have you avoided learning how to do zoom? Worried that it's just too complicated to learn? Well, give us a call at Holy Cross, to walk you through how to use your computer or phone to connect. Once you get it to work once, you'll be amazed how simple it can be!

*Here are opportunities to participate through zoom going forward-*

Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm **What is God Saying Today Zoom Bible Study Join Zoom Meeting** *Our topic is Exodus 1:8-2:10. (We will be OFF for two weeks, resuming on Thursday, Sept 10, when our topic will be Exodus 14:19-31)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84055018008?pwd=SlJhN0lkcWhlUVF3aWE4MkEzV1BRdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 5501 8008 Passcode: 569519

**Better Together Racial Equality Discussion Group** - Wednesday, August 19:6:00 – 7:30pm Meeting ID: 891 6674 3015

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89166743015> This group is reading the book "White Fragility" and are gathering to try to learn more about how we can make changes for racial equality in our world.

**Sunday, August 23 at 3 pm**, Meeting ID: 816 2012 5126

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620125126> with a theme, **"Where in the World would YOU be if you could? Zoom event"** Are you missing traveling? Come to this Better Together Zoom event to share pictures from trips past or items that remind you of travels you have enjoyed. This time of sharing is offered as a 'get together' event for folks feeling the isolation of these days.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A ZOOM EVENT!

“Where in the World would YOU be if you COULD be somewhere? “

Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81620125126>

Meeting ID: 816 2012 5126

**ON Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm!**

We hope you will join us for this “just for fun” event hosted by the Better Together Churches of Salem, Oregon – St. Mark, Christ the Good Shepherd, and Holy Cross Lutheran.

Bring a picture, or an item (optional) of one or more of these options – A Place you have visited, or a place you WANT to visit.





**Sermon for August 16, 2020** And Joseph wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it and the household of Pharaoh heard it. I remember going to the doctor for a 'well baby checkup' about 8 weeks after having my first child, Christopher. A lot of you have met Christopher – 6 foot 5 forty something. And we weighed him, and measured him, and looked him over tip to toe. And then the doctor said to me, "Have you sat in the middle of the kitchen floor crying yet?" And of course, I had, I was about to turn 21, and there was no family anywhere around us, and I was so sure I was doing everything wrong. I remember most clearly the thought that crossed my mind, "What was God thinking trusting someone like me with the life of a baby?" It was terrifying. Lovely, and wonderful but terrifying. Have you wept? In these covid days? Have you wept for the loss of simple hugs to your neighbor or friends? Have you wept for the loss of the way things used to be? For singing the hymns in church? For not being able to share the peace by touching your neighbor? Have you wept for the loss of dreams? The dream of vacationing or visiting family? Have you wept for hundreds of thousands of people dead in 2020?

It seems to me we have entered the snotty phase of the pandemic. Maybe people are just on edge, but I have heard more snotty remarks in the last week or two than in the previous months. And I have snotty remarks ready to go on the tip of my tongue in response. I'm praying they stay on my tongue and that I don't speak them. The isolation, the constant change, and the poor example people in the public eye are setting about their own words and actions have created a perfect storm. Have you sat in the middle of the kitchen floor and wept yet?

We have jumped far in the Joseph story since last week. He was stolen and sold last week by jealous brothers, and in the intervening 8 chapters, has experienced highs and lows worthy of an epic novel. Imprisoned, enslaved, and then, interpreting dreams for his contemporaries propels him to the seat of power, where he solidifies his power through God's gift of vision, of future casting. And in that seat of power, during the worst famine imaginable, he controls the food in Egypt, so much that the brothers come from Canaan to beg for food from wealthy Egypt. And Joseph tortures them, uses them as pawns, even imprisoning Simeon until they bring back Benjamin, the youngest, and then when they return, planting an expensive cup in Benjamin's sack so they would be arrested as thieves. He is toying with them, his anger, his feelings of betrayal and loss come out in these mean and manipulative behaviors. And then, Joseph wept. He weeps for himself, for his own loss and his own feelings of being wronged, and of course, for his own bad behaviors, his bad choices. Joseph is a wreck. Even though, in this speech in chapter 45 he says it was God who sent him to Egypt, not the rotten brothers who sold him. He's been through a lot of loss, a lot of deprivation, and so he weeps. Then, in verse 9 he begins to turn. He turns from awareness of his own pettiness, and loss, and moves into vision. Joseph can see that God's protection, and care have been real during these very hard years, and he wants to extend that protection, to serve his people, and help them find a vision. He tells them to move the whole extended family to Goshen, where he will care for them, feed them, protect them. Most of all, he tells them to bring his father to him. And then he cries some more. And the brothers cry too.

What can we learn today from the bible as it reveals to us great sadness, unfair treatment and unpleasant choices? What can we learn for this moment in time, where God's world is in upheaval, and disarray, and we find ourselves filled with emotions we cannot place, and cannot categorize? I think we can weep, my friends, and find God's gift of strength and care in that weeping. We weep for all we have done, and what we have left undone. We weep for what we have witnessed, and for what we hold at a distance. But I think we must weep my friends, if we are to be able to pick up the responsibilities for what is next. The world needs us to be about service, and caring, and helping the ill, the homeless, the young, and the old. And, before we do that, I think we must weep. Feel the losses in your life, and in your world, and then resolve to do better. We can do that. The world needs us to do that. Amen.

**Praying together at Holy Cross – August 23, 2020**

**This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.**



**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.**

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for the ill, the worried, and the injured. Be our strength in times of trouble. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for first responders, medical professionals, and researchers in this time of need. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for family members, friends and those we do not know who are struggling economically. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for wisdom, clarity and compassion as we seek to be church in a new space and time. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)***

**Lord, in your mercy      Hear Our Prayer**

**We pray for Holy Cross leadership as they imagine new ways of being of service in your community, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.**



**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020 – TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN – Built on a Rock ELW 652**

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.

- 2 Surely, in temples made with hands  
God the Most High is not dwelling—  
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above  
deigns to abide with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.
- 3 Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Exodus 1:8--2:10**

*Pharaoh's daughter takes Moses as her son*

#### **Psalm 138**

*O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)*

#### **Romans 12:1-8**

*One body in Christ, with gifts that differ*

#### **Matthew 16:13-20**

*The confession of Peter's faith*

### **APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

***At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.***

**Communion Blessing** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

**LIFE IS SHORT  
AND WE DO NOT HAVE  
MUCH TIME TO  
GLADDEN  
THE HEARTS  
OF THOSE WHO  
TRAVEL WITH US  
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE  
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND  
AND GO IN PEACE  
TO LOVE AND SERVE  
THE LORD**

ALMA - FREDERIC AMIEL