

September 20, 2020

PRELUDE

NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE—Please maintain at least 6 feet distance!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: We are hearing the story of God and God's people.

Pastor: It is a story of God's mercy and steadfast love.

People: It is our story, for we are God's people.

All: Inspire us, Holy God, to faithfulness, to mercy, to steadfast love.
Help us become a people who reflect your image.

from "Flames of the Spirit" by Ruth C. Duck

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, gracious Giver of all good and perfect gifts, for we seek instead the riches of possessions, status and accomplishments. Forgive us, for we are afraid to believe the word in Jesus Christ that you receive us and love us just as we are, right now. Through your spirit of power give us courage to center our lives on your all-sufficient grace.

from "Flames of the Spirit" by Ruth C. Duck

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

DOXOLOGY—spoken

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION—

God of this new day, we praise you with joy! You take our weary lives and refresh us with your spirit. Our lives feel broken and filled with despair. Heal us this day, God, and make us new.

From “Flames of the Spirit” by Ruth C. Duck

BIBLE READING--Exodus 16: 1-15

¹The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord 's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord , because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸Moses also said, "You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord ."

⁹Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the Lord , for he has heard your grumbling.' "

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

¹¹The Lord said to Moses, ¹²I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'

¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat."

TEACHING TIME FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS---please stay in your seats

TIME FOR MUSIC

BIBLE READING—Matthew 20: 1-16

¹"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³"About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵So they went. ⁶"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

⁷" 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

⁸"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

⁹"The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

¹³"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

¹⁶"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

TEACHING TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / *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 debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
