



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
30 August 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Caprice

Cuthbert Harris

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make God's deeds known among the peoples.

*Sing praises to the Lord;
tell of all God's wonderful works.*

Glory in God's holy name;
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

*Seek the Lord and marvel at God's strength;
Seek God's presence continually.*

Let us worship the God who is like none other. (Psalm 105:1-4)

***Hymn 1**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***Invitation to Confession
& Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, each day and in every moment you call us. Yet so many times we refuse to turn aside from our path to respond. We forget that in your presence we stand on holy ground and we presume we know all of you. Help us live into your love and give us the courage to enter into the suffering that is a part of this world. Grant us open and attentive hearts, so that we may always turn aside when you call. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ God said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

Music The Call Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Live, as killeth death.
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in Love. George Herbert

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? Amen.

The text: .” ⁵ Then God said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” *Exodus 3:5*

Music Moses

Ken Medema

Old Moses, ‘way back there in the wilderness, saw some smoke, came to the bush, and the bush was burnin’. God said, “Take off your shoes, Moses, you’re on holy ground. Moses, I’ve chosen you to be my man, Moses, ‘way down in Egypt’s land. Moses, I’ve chosen you to work for me, Moses, I’ve chosen you to set my people free!”

(Moses) Not me, Lord! Don’t you know I can’t talk so good; I stutter all the time. Do you know my brother, Aaron? He can sing like an angel, talk like a preacher. Not me, Lord! I can’t talk so good. And another thing, how will they know that I’ve been here with you? How will they know what you’ve sent me to do? Don’t you know in Egypt, they want little Moses’ head? Don’t you know in Egypt, they want little Moses dead? Don’t you know they’ll never hear a single word I’ll say! Maybe you’d better get your dirty work done another way! Not me, Lord!

(God) What’s that in your hand?

(Moses) It’s just a rod.

(God) Throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) Do you mean, like, on the ground?

(God) Yes, I said, throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) Lord, don’t take my rod away from me. Don’t you know it’s my only security? Don’t you know when you live here all alone, a man’s gotta have something he can call his own: Not Me, Lord!

(God) Throw it down, Moses.

(Moses) But, Lord, I

(God) Throw it down Moses!

(Narrator) Moses threw the rod on the ground and the rod became a hissing snake! Well, Moses started runnin’ Well, maybe you’d run.

(Moses) You’d run!

(Narrator) He was runnin’ from a hot rod! Runnin’ from a hissing snake! runnin’ scared of what God’s gonna do. Runnin’ scared God’ll get hold of you.

And the Lord said, “Stop, pick it up, Moses, by the tail.”

(Moses) Lord, you have not lived here very long! Lord, you’ve got the whole thing wrong! Don’t you know that you never pick up a hissing snake by his...(God) Pick it up, Moses!

(Moses) Oh God, it’s a rod again.!

(God) Do you know what it means, Moses? Do you know what I’m trying to say, Moses?

(Narrator) The rod on Moses became the rod of God! With the rod of God, strike the rock and the water will come: With the rod of God, part the waters of the sea: With the rod of God, you can strike old Pharaoh dead; With the rod of God, you can set the people free.

What do you hold in your hand today? To what or to whom are you bound? Are you willing to give it to God right now? Give it up, let it go, throw it down.

The Church at Prayer

The 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, forever. Amen.

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy God of holy ground, like Moses we question our ability to serve your purpose on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence. Bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.

***Hymn 69** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky Here I Am

I, the Lord of the sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of the snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Hymn of Thanksgiving Colin Mawby

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Adam Miller, Tenor Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Bob Fox, Videographer Elsie Fox, Director
Sara Eldridge, Bud Green, Mike Sundquist, Ushers
Marilyn Rigney, Safety Team