



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone to remain masked and, for now, to enjoy listening to the soloists sing the hymns and responses in joyful anticipation of the day when we may once again sing together.

MEDITATION

. . .the Jesus network in Mark does not guard boundaries to protect those who are inside from those who are outside. The people in the network sow the seeds of the good news everywhere and exclude no one from the network or from its benefits. . . The narrative explicitly rejects exclusion. At one point, the disciples try to prevent a man from exorcizing a demon in Jesus' name because "he was not following us." In response, Jesus tells them, "Do not stop him. . . for whoever is not against us is for us."

David Rhoads, Reading Mark Engaging the Gospel, pp. 172-3

PRELUDE: Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
John Finney, organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist: Jill Edens

All who are able, please rise for the Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 124

One: If it had not been for God, let the people say,

All: “if it had not been for God,”

One: The anger of our enemies would have swallowed us up.

All: over us would have gone the raging waters.

One: Blessed be God who did not give us over as prey.

**All: but saved us with a mighty hand
and an outstretched arm.**

Please be seated.

HYMN: He’s Got the Whole World

Whole World

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #97

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Trusting that in prayer there is power to reorient life,
let us confess and pray for one another so that we may
be healed.

~~Please be seated~~

**All: O God, you know our missteps, our hidden faults and
secret sins. With our hands we grasp power; with our
feet we stray from your way; with our eyes we look out
for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in
your way of life, justice, and peace. Amen.**

~~Silent confession~~

One: Hear the good news: though we wander from the truth,
God brings us back and restores us. In the name of Jesus
Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

Music by Alice Jordan

Glory to God the Creator,
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

All who are able, please rise for the Passing of the Peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

LESSON: James 5:13-20, NRSV

Reader: Nancy Simons

Prayer can heal the alienation of the sick and reorient the strayed. Prayer in community speaks truth to one another and rescues one another from death.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

LESSON: Mark 9:38-50, NRSV

Reader: Nancy Simons

That we are chosen and loved by God is amazing, humbling, and, at times, surprising. However, we must confess that sometimes, it breeds an elitism of self-importance, an election to specialness. Even among the first disciples, Jesus had to rebuke this limiting notion of self-importance, and to invite self-criticism.

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. “For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture,
among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE: “The Hands of Others”

Richard Edens

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Gary McCabe, Spiritual Life Support Board

OFFERTORY: Et Misericordia (from *Magnificat*) *J. S. Bach*
Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano; Christian Figueroa, tenor
*And God’s mercy is on them that fear God,
throughout all generations.*

DOXOLOGY *Old Hundredth*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Your gift of life, O God, is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to our lips. Take these gifts of our lives: refine and purify them and let them be for the world a sign of your goodness and grace. Amen.

HYMN: You Are Salt for the Earth (as printed)

Bring Forth

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: Prelude in G major

attrib. J. S. Bach

Soloists: Laurie Stewart Otten, Shannon Lebrón,
Christian Figueroa, Garrett Murphy

He's Got the Whole World

97

Unison

1. He's got the whole world in his hands,
2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
3. He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands,
4. He's got you and me, broth - er, in his hands,

he's got the whole world in his hands,
he's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
he's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands,
he's got you and me, sis - ter, in his hands,

he's got the whole world in his hands,
he's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
he's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands,
he's got you and me, broth - er, in his hands,

he's got the whole world in his hands

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

WHOLE WORLD
Irr.

An element common to many spirituals is syncopated rhythm, which has greatly influenced American gospel, jazz and symphonic music.

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Verses



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and

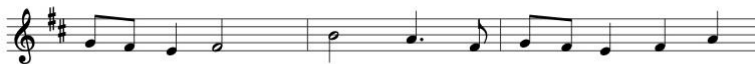


life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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“You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”

Text and Music by Marty Haugen

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| Alto Soloist | Shannon Lebrón |
| Tenor Soloist | Christian Figueroa |
| Bass Soloist | Garrett Murphy |
| Sound Technician | Kenny Goshgarian |
| Sound Technician | Steven Hopkins |

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.