



## Bellflower & Mt Vernon UMC

August 8, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS<sup>1</sup>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>

**Bread of life,  
you taught us to put away bitterness and anger,  
and with tenderhearted kindness  
to share the fruit of our labor with the needy.  
Strengthen us by your grace,  
that in communion with you,  
we may forgive one another  
and live in love as Christ loved us. Amen.**

 HYMN

**Lord of the Dance #261  
Just a Closer Walk #2158**

PSALM<sup>3</sup> - Psalm 130

From the depths of my soul I have cried to you, God.  
Please hear my voice.

Let your ears hear me and listen to what I have to say.

**With you, God, there is plenty of mercy and goodness  
to go around.**

If you were to count up everything anyone has ever done  
wrong, God, who would be left standing?

But you are a forgiving God.

And I am astounded by the forgiveness you offer.

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<sup>1</sup> Covert art: "Elements of Peace",  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wolfnowl/3893602036/>

<sup>2</sup> Reproduced from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* copyright © 2002  
Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>3</sup> *God's Word, My Voice, A Lectionary for Children*, Lynn Zill Briggs

**With you, God, there is plenty of mercy and goodness to go around.**

I wait for you patiently. My soul waits for you.

As I take your word into my heart I can feel the hope.

My soul waits for you more anxiously than people who wait for a long, dark night to come to an end.

**With you, God, there is plenty of mercy and goodness to go around.**

People of God, people of Israel, wait with me for God, because I know God has mercy.

With God, there is plenty of mercy and goodness and God will bring all of you back into relationship with him.

**With you, God, there is plenty of mercy and goodness to go around.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

NT READING - Ephesians 4:25-5:2

GOSPEL - John 6:35, 41-51

## SERMON

Come, let us put away all things that divide us and love one another.<sup>4</sup>

**For we are members of one another**

Come; let us not be divided from one another by gender, race, color, or status.

**For we are members of one another.**

Come; let us put away lies, anger, stealing, and corrupt words.

**For we are members of one another.**

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<sup>4</sup> Eugene Blair, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B*, Discipleship Resources, 2007, 96.

Come; let us put away bitterness, wrath, clamor, and malice.

**For we are members of one another.**

Come; let us put away uncleanness, idolatry, and deception.

**For we are members of one another.**

Together let us speak truth, labor together, and do what is good and edifying to the Lord.

**Let us be imitators of God, walk as the children of God, and love as Christ first loved us.**

Come, let us be the people of God we are called to be.

**For we are saints, God's chosen people, and members of one another. Amen.**

 **HYMN - Peace Like a River #2145**

**We've got peace like a river ... in our soul.**

**We've got love for each other .. in our soul.**

**We've got Christ in our talkin,**

**We've got Christ in our walkin,**

**'Cause We've got Christ way-down deep  
in our soul.**

**We've got peace like a river ... in our soul.**

## **CONFESSION & PARDON**

...

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

## **OFFERING & PEACE**

 **DOXOLOGY - #95**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **CHARGE & BLESSING<sup>5</sup>**

Go out and imitate God, living in love.  
Put your hope in God's Word  
and let your own words be truthful and constructive.  
May sin rouse your anger,  
. . . but never let anger cause you to sin.  
Don't allow any room for evil.

And may God always hear your voice.  
May Christ Jesus raise you to new life;  
and may the Holy Spirit nourish you for the life of love.

Go in peace.

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<sup>5</sup> Copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net/>.

### Question for Reflection<sup>6</sup>

“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:31–32). Have you ever experienced bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, slander, or malice in yourself or from others? How do you overcome and find grace to forgive?

### Household Prayer: Morning

God of the morning watches,  
my soul waits for you, and I hope in your word.  
Bread of life, nourish, strengthen, and accompany me  
throughout this day, that I may labor honestly, share with the  
needy, and imitate your love. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

God of peace, I have struggled through the battle of life this  
day.  
If you should mark my iniquities, how can I stand? But there is  
forgiveness with you. Let your steadfast love cleanse, comfort,  
and keep me through this night. Amen.

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy  
Communion brought to your home, or have any other need,  
please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (217 898  
8161, [rob@methodist.cc](mailto:rob@methodist.cc)).

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