



Bellflower & Mt Vernon UMC

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS¹

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

OPENING PRAYER²

We do not live by bread alone,
**but by the Word who became flesh
and dwells among us.**

Christ is the true bread of heaven,
the manna of freedom.

Come, let us worship and give thanks.

 HYMN - #382

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

NT READING - Ephesians 4:1-16

GOSPEL - John 6:24-35

SERMON

 HYMN - #2062

Lily of the Valley

CONFESSION & PARDON - Psalm 51³

God, I know you are loving and kind.
Now I need your mercy and forgiveness.
Wipe away what I've done wrong.

¹ Cover art by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com.

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

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

I know what I've done. In fact, I can't get it off my mind.

You are the one I have hurt.

You know what I've done.

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

You are so right to call me out on my sin.

You see and tell the truth.

It seems I've never been able to walk the right path,
even before I was born!

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

You look deep inside me for the truth that's in there.

Make me understand the truth you find.

Clean the house of my soul, and it will be clean.

If you do the washing, I know I will sparkle inside.

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

Make me feel joy again. Let me hear happy songs
so that my sad, tired body can rejoice again.

Don't look at my sin. Turn your face away from me.

Make my sin go away. Then there will be space inside
for a brand new, clean heart.

Then my spirit can start all over again, the right way.

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

Don't send me away from you, wherever you are, God.

Don't take your special Holy Spirit away from me.

Once again, give me the great joy knowing that
you are saving me.

Keep me going with that help that
your Spirit never stops giving.

Scrub me clean, God.

Wash the wickedness right off me.

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.

PEACE & OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95

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. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION - UMH13 or UMH17

POSTLUDE

CHARGE & BLESSING⁴

God surround you with love;

Christ forgive you your sin;

Holy Spirit fill you with eternal life.

Go in peace.

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Question for Reflection⁵

In what specific situation is God calling you to exercise humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and love?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, your love endures forever.

I am like the flower that blooms in its season, watered by the earth and morning dew. You send the sun and rain, morning, midday, and evening, giving light and life.

Thank you for protection through the night;
thank you for your presence in the dawn.

Renew my strength this day and let me love you with all my heart and soul and might. Bear with me as I bear my cross for Christ, for I know that I will falter.

You remember that I am only dust, but you have breathed your Spirit into me and my face is renewed. How can I show my gratitude?

Grant that I may be one with the mind of Christ, loving my neighbor as myself and giving as freely of myself as you have given yourself to me. Guide me today to serve in deep peace wherever there is need for healing or hope. Use me to show others that you are the power who transforms the world and that you are the One who saves sinners.

This day and this night, in this life and in the life to come, let me live in you to praise you, God who is three, God who is one.
Amen.

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Household Prayer: Evening

The day has run its course, evening lights are coming on, and you are still with me, unseen, God.

You have been so quiet, like the sun or misty rain or the whisper of a light breeze across my skin. Yet you gave me life today to be in your presence, and you gave me faith enough to hope that I might be serving you. You, who makes the universe (or, if there are multiverses, so be it), you, who turned a Roman weapon of torture and terror into the ultimate sign of salvation, you have been like a friend to me.

Thank you.

As I take moments to reflect on the day, write in my journal, or pray even now, I am sure there are ways you have cared for me of which I am insensitive or unaware. I am sure there are things I have done and other things I failed to do that made you justly angry with me.

I am sorry; please forgive me.

Do not let the darkness envelop me tonight. Embrace me with your light so that I can be at peace with you, restored.

Prepare me for tomorrow, and for the day of resurrection, when all creation will rejoice in your glory, Holy Trinity. 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).