

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Prayer

Leader: The Apostle Paul declares, “Whether we live or die, we belong to God.

People: Christ is Lord of the dead and the living.

Leader: The Psalmist sings, “Lord, save my life!”

People: God has delivered my soul from death.

Leader: The Evangelist preaches, “Rejoice! The lost are found.

People: There is joy in the everlasting presence of God. Come! Let us gather in the presence of God and invoke God’s holy name by praying...

Pastor Jim: Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sin

Leader: Whenever we pass through the deep and troubled waters of life, or endure times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. Confident in God’s grace, let us fully and truthfully confess our sin and the sin of the world and find pardon.

People: O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim your Gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit and give us the courage and strength of character to be reconciled to others. We ask through Jesus Christ our Savior, the light of the world. Amen!

Pardon of Sin: Pastor Jim: Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit give to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Jesus taught that if we forgive other people whenever they harm us, our heavenly Father will forgive us. Having pardoned all others, we are now pardoned ourselves. Thanks be to God!

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Pastor Jim: The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it. We have returned the first and best of what God has given us, so that his will may be done, and his kingdom draw nearer; therefore, let us pray, dedicating our gifts to these holy purposes.

Blessed are you, O God, for you are the maker and provider of all things. You have blessed us with many gifts, including all our possessions. Not one thing is ours to use as we see fit. All things are to be used to spread your Word and demonstrate our mercy to the world, so that the world may turn to you, and find its salvation. Use us and what we have gathered this morning to showing your love to the world. We ask this through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

Musical Prayer for Illumination

Scripture (*see below*) *Psalm 103: 8-13 (NIV); Romans 14:1-12 (NIV); Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)*

Reflection

“What God Desires Most from Us”

Pastor Jim

Ascription of Praise

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord, the great I AM. Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us, for we, your servants, are listening. Now to you, ruler of all worlds, undying, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory, forever and ever! Amen.

Invitation to Discipleship

Pastor: If you need a community to belong to, if you are thirsty for the Word of life, and want to live as a disciple of Jesus, then join us in his ministry and mission. You are most welcome and needed here.

Thanksgiving for our Baptism

Pastor: In response to God’s saving Word to us, and in gratitude for our salvation through faith, alone, let us pray to God, giving God thanks for the gift of our baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for this life-sustaining gift of water – at the dawn of creation your Spirit swept across the swirling deep; in the days of Noah you washed away evil from the face of the earth; in the time of Moses you led your people through the surging sea to the freedom of the Promised Land; by the rivers of Babylon you heard our cry and brought us home at last; in the waters of Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. We give you thanks for the water of our baptism, in which you delivered us from our captivity to sin, and by which we share in

Christ's saving death and life-giving resurrection. Pour out your Holy Spirit among us now. Refresh us, renew us, restore us by your grace, so that we may live faithfully as the beloved people you have chosen, called, and claimed in Christ Jesus. All praise and honor and glory are yours, O blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Let us pray for the needs of the holy church, the entire human family, and all the world. We pray that churches of all traditions may remember their baptism and rediscover their unity in Christ and exercise their Spirit-given gifts in service of all.

We pray that the good earth which you created and declared good may be liberated from the ravages of war, famine, and disease, and that the air, soil, and waters may be cleansed of all poison.

We pray that those who govern and maintain peace in every land may come to exercise their powers in humility and obedience to your benevolent commands.

We pray that you will strengthen this nation to pursue honorable and just priorities, so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed.

We pray that you will preserve all who live and work in this city in peace and safety.

We pray that you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, especially those named here today; the disabled, the poor, the oppressed; those who grieve and those in prison.

Most merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross and example of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe, and all our acts are prayer.

We ask for all of this through Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us, and who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father..."

Music

Sending and Benediction

Leader: My friends, thanks for coming and worshipping with us today. Now go in peace and serve the Lord.

Pastor Jim: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

September 13, 2020

**⁸ The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

**⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

**¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.**

**¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;**

**¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

**¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;**

Psalm 103: 8-13 (NIV)

 **Loveland**
Presbyterian Church
LOVING • PRAYING • CARING

JOYS & CONCERNS

Joy for...

June Taylor's great, great grandson's mother, Sara, was scheduled for brain surgery this week, but it was canceled because her tumor is shrinking. Prayers that it continues to shrink.

Pray for...

Mike Nesbit, hospitalized at Bethesda North with COVID-19.

Ruth and Tiffany Bruning, both tested positive for COVID-19.

Mission co-workers, David Cortes and Josey Saez, who are leaving mission service on September 17th.

Sara Hunt, Head Start teacher, recovering from back surgery.

The Skinners, recovering from coronavirus.

Niki Price's sister, Marta, being treated for stage 4 small cell lung cancer.

All who suffer due to racism, marginalization, and oppression.

The safety of all teachers, staff, and students.

Safety for our first responders and healthcare workers.

All who are lonely and separated from family and friends.

Our home bound - Norma Koerkel, Gene Strand, Sunni & Karl Kadon

Please keep in your hearts and prayers all the sick and shut-ins of LPC.

Please notify the LPC office of the progress and recovery of the individuals and loved ones named above. Names will appear for 2 weeks unless the office is otherwise notified.

Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

September 13th ~ Brenda Kopittke

September 14th ~ Terry Price

September 17th ~ Eric Dedden

ANNIVERSARIES

September 14th ~ Dee Dee & Chris Benick

September 20th ~ Tiffany & Mike Bruning

LPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A note of gratitude: *Many, many thanks to all for the food, visits, phone calls and especially the prayers while I was recovering from a broken leg. It all meant so very much to have such a wonderful church family. Much love in Christ ~ Linda Slusher*

Join us this month in supporting the PC(USA)'s Special Offering – Peace and Reconciliation. Their work of peace and reconciliation is supported by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. These gifts also unite them with Presbyterian peacemakers across the country and the world who are active, not passive; who are doing, not waiting.

- 25% of this Offering stays with individual congregations to support local peacemaking and reconciliation efforts and ministries.
- 25% of this Offering will go to mid councils to join congregations in support of peacemaking throughout presbyteries and synods.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

We are the peacemakers. We are the Church, Together.

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. You can find collection envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Envelopes will be taken up on Oct. 4th – World Communion Sunday. You may also go to their website to donate: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/>

Psalm 103: 8-13 (NIV)

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Romans 14:1-12 (NIV)

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

“As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,
‘every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”