

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

18 September 2022

Guest Minister – Susan V. Mills

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

From the Psalms

SHARING IN OUR COMMON LIFE

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God.

CHIMES AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER - based on Jeremiah 8

Gracious God, your people are suffering.

Where there is woundedness,

help us bring healing.

Where there is discouragement,

help us bring support and comfort.

Where there is dismay and mourning,

help us bring the power of new life

and new opportunities.

Heal us, O God,

for You are our help and our hope,

the One we turn to in times of trouble.

In the name of our Great Physician,

Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

POEM - Is it Your Turn to Forgive Me? By John Roedel
(See insert)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 79, Jeremiah 8, Luke 16

O God, we come into Your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

We come in celebration and song.

We come in gratitude of Your inheritance.

We come as those who have received blessing upon blessing.

We hear the cry of the poor in the land, and ache to offer them relief.

We come to bring them blessing upon blessing, in Jesus' name.

O God, we come into Your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

We come in celebration and song.

HYMN - #336 We Gather Together

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 79, Jeremiah 8, 2 Timothy 2, Luke 16

We confess that we find Your medicine hard to swallow.

The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines.

But Your medicine is powerful.

And if we take it, it will remake and renew our lives.

It will reorient us to You and to You alone.

Turn us toward Your love for justice and true worship.

Forgive our sins, for which You weep. Forgive our hesitation.

Grant us courage to choose You as our Physician, and to serve You and You alone.

.....*Silent Confession*.....

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Susan V. Mills

***RESPONSE** There Is a Redeemer #443

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Susan V. Mills

And also, with you.

Is it Your Turn to Forgive Me? By John Roedel

**Is it your turn to forgive me
or
is it my turn to forgive you?**

I can't remember either.

**To be safe we better just forgive
each other at the exact same time.**

Here's how:

**We will hold hands
so that your wrist
presses right up
against mine.**

**And now we wait
until our pulses
match each other.**

**And now we close our
eyes and pretend
that our veins are
rivers of empathy**

and now the seasons are changing

and now the mountains are melting

and now the water is rising

and now the rivers are growing together

**and now the barren
space we let grow
between us is being
flooded with stretching
vineyards of clemency**

**and now exotic wildflowers
are growing everywhere**

everywhere

everywhere

everywhere

and now all we know is an ocean

**and now we are swimming
in the same tides of understanding**

and now the two of us are endless again

**and now we are the
newborn children of forgiveness**

**open your eyes
look down at our wrists
wrapped around each other**

**and now I forgive you
and now you forgive me**

**and now I see you
and now you see me**

and now can't you feel it?

**~ this rising river
~ this rolling ocean
~ this endless us**

this rushing mercy

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

We seek to serve You, O God,
by serving others:
the poor, the needy, the least, and the lost.
Help us hear anew Your words,
that we may become more faithful stewards
of the gifts You give us each day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON - 1 Timothy 2:1-7

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP - Variations on "Beautiful Savior," Organ

SERMON

Rogue Rabbi!

Susan V. Mills

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN** - #471 O, Lord Hear My Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

***DOXOLOGY** - #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BEARING & FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***COMMISSION & BLESSING** (based on Isaiah) Susan Mills

***DEPARTING HYMN** - #444 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

POSTLUDE

**Denotes – Stand if able*

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