

ORDINARY TIME – 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

RECOLLECTING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Music (please use this time for quiet and reflection)

Gong [followed by silence]

Call to Worship

Hymn – 463 [Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies]

Opening Prayer

OUR HUMANNES AND GOD'S GRACE

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, I am not the person I want to be or thought I would become. There are many areas of my life that are uneasy and unsettled and unfinished, and I am of the opinion that they should not be that way. Upon reflection, I wonder where I got the idea that life would and should turn out the way I wanted it to or thought it ought to? In my experience, those times when my life has come together in a way I valued did not last all that long. A more realistic way of thinking about my life is that life keeps unfolding, and I never permanently arrive at place where it is finally easy, settled and finished. I look for some way to view my life that holds it together, and where I come out is resting in you as the one who continually unfolds my life. Help me relax into you and the way you constantly disclose my life to me. Give me the gift of being able to pay attention to what turns up, and the grace to find the life that is contained therein.

Personal Prayer of Confession in Silence

Assurance of Pardon

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Story for the Children

Scripture – Luke 9:51-62

Prompting

Silence and Reflection

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn – 378 [Make Me a Captive, Lord]

Announcements

Minute for Mission

Our Gifts and Offerings

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

GOING OUT – to serve, to journey, to live the word

Charge and Benediction

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TODAY	10:00	Worship and Church School
	11:00	Coffee and Fellowship
	11:20	Conversation
MONDAY	1:00	Centering Prayer, church office

Lectionary Readings from Cycle C for July 7, 2019
II Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.

F.Y.I.

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Ordinary Time, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Luke 9:51-62)

We are highlighting what occurs in the time of life known as “Ordinary Time following Pentecost.” This is a time in life when we are assimilating thoughts and/or feelings that in the past we have rejected, a time when our experience of our self is expanding and becoming more inclusive.

As this assimilation proceeds, we will discover that the life we always thought we would have is not the life that is emerging. We are not the person we have wanted to be or thought we would become. Perhaps we discover that our values have changed slightly or greatly, or that we are more accepting or more rejecting than we imagined, more open-minded or close-minded than we expected.

One of the things we will have to face is whether we are able and willing to pay attention to what turns up as our life unfolds. The temptation is to stay within the confines of what we were taught was appropriate to think and feel rather than explore and consider what we are actually thinking and feeling.

Another thing we will need to face is whether or not we can accept that we will never arrive at the place where our life stops unfolding. Our life does not stand still, and in that sense we never come to a place where we can no longer be surprised or unsettled.

What we learn to do is focus not on any particular destination, but on the journey itself. We rest not in any external or internal shape our life may take, but in God who keeps coming to us as that which discloses us to ourselves, and especially in the acceptance and care God offers us as life changes.

[Jim Robie, 6-28-19]

Ordinary Time – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Luke 9:51-62)

God is taking us on a journey toward the experience of the “fullness of our life.” That is, it is the intent of God to continuously expand our awareness of the many and varied components that make up the person we are, so that over time we are able to be familiar with more and more of our life, and make use of the different parts of us in the way we live each day. We have sometimes referred to this idea as “God’s increasing the number of participants that sit around our internal table so they can talk with us about how to engage what we are facing in our daily life.” As God goes about this work, we will find there are times when we are inundated by thoughts, feelings and perceptions which introduce us to unfamiliar aspects of the person we are. These times can be disconcerting and upsetting, and we may find that we are cautious and hesitant about receiving what is being communicated to us. If we are intentional about being on this journey with God, we may find that we become impatient with our caution and annoyed with our hesitance, even becoming angry and punitive towards ourselves (“command fire to come down from heaven and consume them”) because we are not more receptive. So, the reminder is given that on this journey we are not about overcoming what we are, but are about becoming familiar with what we are, and that includes the cautious and hesitant components of our life (“You do not know the spirit you are of, for the Son of Man has not come to destroy the lives of human beings but to save them” [expanded alternate reading of verse 56]). God’s intent is to “save” us; that is, to keep us safe from the self-recriminations that come from our own idealism, and to help us be receptive to who we are, even to being cautious and hesitant, rather than overcoming our caution and hesitation in an effort to be something else. [The reference here is to verses 51-56.]

On this journey there is nowhere to lay our head. That does not mean we never rest; it means we never arrive. Awareness is not goal-oriented; it does not have a particular content. It is the recognition of something sensed or felt, including both what falls inside as well as outside the parameters of what we consider acceptable. All throughout our life different components of who

we are will emerge in our awareness in order to be included at our internal table, and it is helpful to keep in our mind’s eye that inclusion is what God desires, and is something that is never reached in that it is always expanding. [Verses 57-58.]

On this journey toward becoming more aware of the fullness of our life, the most important thing is to “proclaim the kingdom of God;” that is, in everything to demonstrate the consciousness which the influence of God produces in us. Life is full of things we were taught to attend to, and we tend to do most of those things in life automatically and without much awareness. The counsel is to not do some things automatically so we can then get on with being aware, but to be aware while we are doing whatever we are doing, even if we are doing something automatically. There is a reference in the text to plowing: the reference refers to the fact that when someone who is guiding a plow turns around and looks back the plow turns, and the row becomes crooked. Looking to the side or turning around, which in this case would be worrying about whether or not we are being aware correctly, is not “fitting” [the Greek word means “well placed; i.e. it is inappropriate”]. We are basically asked to look at what turns up in the course of our day, something that is not always easy to do, especially when we worry about being aware of the “right” or “deep” things. The correct [important] material always comes to the surface, and is right in front of our face, even when it does not seem important to us. [Verses 59-62.]

[Jim Robie, 6-28-19, 3rd after Pentecost, Cycle C, Luke 9:51-62]