

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
Sunday September 13, 2020
Community Worship under the Trees and Online

Prelude, Connie Kilpatrick

Introit: *Breathe on Me Breath of God* sung by the Congregation

Call to Worship: From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

Hymn *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

The Apostle's Creed I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

Announcements and Bread Tin Offering for UMCOR Hurricane Relief

Anthem *He Hideth My Soul* Scott Glenn

Prayer for Illumination: Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-13

Hymn: *Take Time to Be Holy*

Scripture Ephesians 3:14-21 and Sermon

I bow my knees before the Father,¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

Offering and Doxology

Hymn *Here It's Me, it's Me, O Lord*

Benediction and Choral Response *Three-fold Amen*

January 3, 1776. Rode to Baltimore, and had a large congregation at the house of Captain Paten, at the Point. Many of the principal people were there, and the Lord enabled me to speak with power. At night I preached in town. The house was well filled with people, and we have a comfortable hope the work of the Lord will revive in this place. Bless the Lord, O ye saints! Holiness is the element of my soul. My earnest prayer is, that nothing contrary to holiness may live in me.

Monday, January 1, 1776. I am now entering on a new year, and am of late constantly happy, feeling my heart much taken up with God, and hope thus to live and thus to die. Or, if there should be any alteration, may it be for the better, and not for the worse! This is my earnest desire and prayer to God. *My residue of days or hours, Thine, wholly thine, shall be; and all my consecrated powers a sacrifice to thee. Till Jesus in the clouds appear to saints on earth forgiven, and bring the grand sabbatic year, the jubilee of heaven.*

Lords Day, 8. My present practice is, to set apart about three hours out of every twenty-four for private prayer; but Satan labors much to interrupt me. Nevertheless, my soul enjoys a sweet and peaceful nearness to God, for the most part, in these duties. I found some at the Point mourning for an interest in Jesus Christ. May the Lord, whom they seek, come suddenly into the temple of their disconsolate hearts!

Saturday, 22. As sure as we draw nigh to God in sincerity, he will draw nigh to us. I have given myself to private prayer seven times a day, and found my heart much drawn out in behalf of the preachers, the societies, especially the new places, and my aged parents. And while thus exercised, my soul has been both quickened and purified. Let the glory be given to God! But alas! after all, my heart is not so filled with generous gratitude as it should be! *Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends thy word; Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.*

Friday August 1. The Lord gave me spiritual peace, but my soul was on stretch for a greater degree of holiness, and deeper communion with God. *I pant to feel thy sway, And only thee to obey; Thee my spirit gasps to meet; This my one, my ceaseless prayer — Make, O make my heart thy seat! O set up thy kingdom there!*

Friday 5 1779. Set apart for fasting and prayer. Though tempted at times, I shall not be overcome. I had rather die than sin against God. I read about one hundred octavo pages, then applied to the Bible for the exercises of the remaining part of the day. I began the reading of my Bible through again; read a few chapters in Genesis, visited the sick in the neighborhood, but ate nothing till six o'clock at night; had various struggles, but the grace of God is sufficient for me at all times. Glory be to Jesus!

Thursday, February 7, 1782. I rode sixteen miles, and preached to a large assemblage of people at T.'s on the "great salvation." Though I am often in haste, and straitened for want of time, I have gone through Mr. Wesley's third volume once, and am going through it again. I make it a rule to spend an hour, morning and evening, in meditation and in prayer for all the circuits, societies, and preachers. I expect to see the work of God revive in these parts so soon as the spirit of disputation is cast out. Blessed be God, I enjoy good health of body and peace of mind! I find no preaching does good but that which properly presses the use of the means, and urges holiness of heart. These points I am determined to keep close to in all my sermons.

Monday, 21. We had the Divine presence in our worship at Sister Stringers. I am often blessed at the houses of the fatherless and widows. Now, I say to my body, return to thy labor; to my soul, return to thy rest and pure delight in reading, meditation, prayer, and solitude. The shady groves are witness to my retired and sweetest hours. To sit, and melt, and bow alone before the Lord, while the melody of the birds warbles from tree to tree, how delightful!

Friday April 10. We came to G.'s, in Wilkes county. I fear lest darkness should be felt here. Ah, Lord, help me to go through good and evil report; prosperity and adversity; storms and calms; kindness and unkindness; friends and enemies; life and death, in the spirit and practice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Monday March 21, 1803 I feel my infirmities and the labor of my journeys, but my soul is cast upon the Lord in unceasing prayer that God may guide the Church, and give the spirit of wisdom and love and zeal to our conferences. We only, as we think, want more useful laborers in the vineyard, and thousands will be brought home to God in the cities, circuits, and towns this year.