

Sermon

"So Great a Cloud of Witnesses"
Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Prayers of the People

Offering

As you share your blessings with us, Gracious God, you show great faith that we will use them wisely and offer them generously to others. So, by faith, may our gifts bring healing to the broken, hope to the despairing, and laughter to those who mourn. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Doxology

"What A Beautiful Name"

Benediction and Sending

In faith, we have worshiped the God of all grace and hope.
By faith, we will go to be poured out for all around us.
Through faith, we have come to follow the Servant of the poor.
With faith, we will go with our companions, justice and righteousness, to serve the oppressed.
By faith, we learn the songs of the Spirit of love.
In faith, we will sing these songs with those for whom the music has gone silent.

Fellowship Time



12120 Bridgeton Square Drive
Bridgeton, MO, 63044
JCPChurch.org

Sunday, August 14th, 2022

Lectionary Readings (Ordinary 20- Year C)

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Prelude

Aaron Wolz, Viola Solo

Community Sharing

Call to Worship

The One who commands the clouds calls us to be poured out for others.
We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.
The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.
We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.
The One who is with us in every moment composes a love-song for our hearts.
We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.

"How Great Thou Art"

Prayer of the Day and The Lord's Prayer

"Facedown"

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Expectant God, what more can we say that you don't know already? You long for justice for all people, but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world. You hope that righteousness will walk with us, but you hear the clear cries of those we mistreat. You ask us to speak up for those in need, but we shut our mouths and turn away.

Righteous God, forgive us. Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could. Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest, may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Shhh, listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven - those who have gone on before us - are cheering us on as we run towards the finish line of our faith.

Thanks be to God! The victory has already been won for us in Jesus Christ. We are forgiven. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace of Christ

Hymn 186: "The Old Rugged Cross"

Scripture Reading | Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (NRSV)

The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient,^[a] because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two;^[b] they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

The Example of Jesus

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,^[c] and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of^[d] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.