



Sunday, August 4, 2024

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,
He captured the enemy and seized the plunder,
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are easy prey for predators. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

Ephesian 4:1-16 (MSG)

- Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved -

Greeters: Barb & Ron Mable, Sandy & Tom Johnson, Betty & Bob Rishel, Dianna Bock

Ushers: Randy Heller, Rachel Reist, Kay Houghton, Coleman Harris, Phil Smith

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Deb Peterson & Lee Heisey, in celebration of Polly Brooks 100th birthday

Carla & Jerry Rothacker, in memory of their parents

John & Sandy Wolfe, in memory of their daughter Sarah E. Sedlak

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes & Prelude

Children ages 0 to 4 are welcome to attend our nursery during the service. Children ages 5 and above may use an activity bag from the Narthex during the service and return them afterward. Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 8th.

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: We gather as God's people, responding to the elevated calling we receive from God. We are to serve others as we build up Christ's Body in our world.

People: Our backgrounds are different, our habits and expectations vary, but together, we share a common faith in Christ.

Leader: Though unique and precious to God, our call is to offer God's gifts of peace, gentleness, hope, love, and grace to all of God's creation.

ALL: Together we worship and live as God's family called as one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all as we meet together at this one Table of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Opening Hymn #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Sarah Hostetter

God's best intention for us is to be faithful children, living as role models for a world desperate for hope. Yet so often we fall short by our words, actions, and failure to see, know and love others as God calls us to do. We pause now to speak with Triune God. We pray, first in silence and then together in our prayers of confession.

Prayer of Confession

Sarah Hostetter

God of love, grace and mercy, we admit the many mistakes we make, the words, and attitudes that cause pain or diminish others who are not like us. Chewing on bread created from the ashes of our brokenness, we act as if we are allergic to Your high calling for our lives. Not wanting to acknowledge the true selves You create us to be, we continue to do all the things which break Your heart. Forgive us. Grace us with the new life gifted in the Bread. Heal us with the joy and gladness of the Cup. Craft within us new hearts, which beat with each other and as one with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon Sarah Hostetter
Leader: Seeing us, knowing us, and loving us, God puts us back together, feeding us with Christ, hearing our prayers. God chooses to forgive us, bringing one hope, one faith, one baptism, one Body.
Friends believe the good news of the Gospel!
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace Sarah Hostetter
Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579
**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.**

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:1-16 Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Message **"Maturity: Healthy in God, Robust in Love"** Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Responding to God's Word

Invitation to The Lord's Table Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer Rev. Matt Drumheller
**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Choral Anthem "A Communion Invitation" by C. Courtney

Distribution of the Elements Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Prayer after Communion Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Invitation to the Offering Rev. Matt Drumheller

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #435 "We All Are One in Mission"

* Charge and Benediction Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Postlude

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.