

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - LAYITY SUNDAY - PENTECOST
May 28, 2023

PRELUDE:

BELLS:

WELCOME:

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us read together from your copy of Psalm 95:1-2

All: Psalm 95:1-2 Various Translations all read in unison.

L: The sounds of confusion, is that the theme of this service:
Maybe.

L: Join in singing the hymn; Spirit of the Living God. 2 verses #297 (TWC)

HYMN:#297 (TWC) v.v. 1 - 2 “Spirit of the Living God”

CCLI Song # 191468 Daniel Iverson | Michael Alfred Baughen © Words: 1982 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Michael Baughen - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd, sub to Hope Publishing for various regions) (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company) Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
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SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:7-12 NIV

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Ask, Seek, Knock

⁷“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹²So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Revelations 3:14-22 (NRSVUE)

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The Message to Laodicea

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

¹⁵“I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the

shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. ²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Acts 2:1-21 - Read with Interjections

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Fran: The Apostles were all together in one place that day because they were confused and afraid. Their leader, Jesus, had been arrested, beaten and crucified, and raised from death. It was one of the festivals and many people were gathered from all over the known world. Did these people know or believe who Jesus was? Are the authorities coming to arrest them too? Confusion, fear, - BUT – Jesus had told them to wait for the Spirit to come.

Acts 2:1-13

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Fran: The people that were gathered there changed. They were no longer fearful. They were ready to speak! Peter Spoke up:

Acts 2:14-21

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews^[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Fran: We have someone here today that is also ready to speak. Bruce Watters is ready to give us a message. The Holy Spirit began to speak this message to Bruce through this window from our sanctuary that you see on our PowerPoint slide today.

A TIME OF REFLECTION: “What Is Behind the Door?” – by: Bruce Watters

Everywhere we look we can see doors. Some open to let us in. Others close to keep things safe. Some are used to separate rooms. Still others give privacy. There are many kinds of doors. The doors I want to talk about are different. These are the doors in our mind and soul.

The first door is anger. It causes us to do and say things that are harmful and hurting. This door also covers up the insecurity of the person.

The second door is hate and prejudice. It stops us from getting to know others and seeing that these people are just like us. It gives us a negative feeling. The human being fears and distrusts the unknown and different situations.

The third door is greed and selfishness. Some people want everything and will go to any length to get it. They lie, cheat, steal and demand everything in their favor. They care only about themselves.

These doors are very hard to open because we have had them for so long. Also, they have been fortified by our sense of being better than anyone else. The only way to open them is to ask God for help and to teach us to be humble; to help us look into the mirror and see us as we are; then to see ourselves as what we can be with God’s help. There is a big difference.

There are also good doors that help others. There is the door of caring about others; the door of kindness; the door of understanding; the door of justice and equality; the door that lets us see and accept that all people, regardless of race, color, religion, or culture, have the same needs and desires that we have. They have the feelings of hurt, pain, loss and, in many cases, disrespect. These are God’s people also, but many don’t respect or understand that fact.

I am of the belief that God is with us all the time. I attribute that to the history of my life. The question is this. God is there, but have we really let Him into our hearts and souls?

In the sanctuary of Summit Church, there is a glass window portraying Jesus knocking at the door. If one looks closely, there is a handle to close the door. However, there is no means of opening that door from the outside. It has to be opened from within.

The Bible says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If you open the door, I will enter.” Opening the doors of heart and soul can be very difficult. We will sometimes open them part way

but fear slams them shut. We know that God is with us all the time. The thing is this, even if He is with us, have we opened our heart and soul to let him in? In my case it took a long, long time to do this.

It means you must open those doors of anger, hate, prejudice, vanity, greed and selfishness, and any other bad characteristics. One needs to discard these things and sweep out the corners to make way for good things.

One should also open the doors of caring, understanding and kindness, the door of justice and equality, the door of acceptance of others even if they don't look like us or if they are of a different culture or religions. In short, treat them as you wish to be treated.

It isn't easy to open these doors. We feel very exposed to all kinds of criticism. When we let God into our hearts and souls we get the strength and understanding beyond anything we have ever known before. He lets us see things in a way we have not seen before.

God will not protect us from the bumps and bruises of life, but He will give us the strength and courage to weather the storm and, in many cases, become a better person for the experience.

I have tried to do this. The difference has been unbelievable. It really worked for me. I ask you to let God into your heart and soul. You will find that life is much better. I pray that you are successful.

L: Thank you Bruce for your message and your willingness to share it.

HYMN: #282 “*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*”

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A TIME OF PRAYER -

– LIFTING UP PRAYER REQUESTS –

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SHARING OUR GIFTS:

All: All good gifts around us come from you, O God.

You have given us life, and new life in Christ.

As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

All: Eternal Spirit of the universe, we thank you that you do not leave us alone, But place your word within us and in the midst of our life together. You are not statue made of silver or gold, but a living reality. Give us courage and commitment to let your winds blow through us and to let your life be revealed among us. Empowered by your Spirit, may we care for the needs of all people, break bread together with joy, and praise you day by day. Grant us your peace;

SUMM-IT UP:

SENDING HYMN: *“America the Beautiful”* (Traditional – Public Domain)

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!
2. O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!
3. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!
4. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

BENEDICTION: - In Unison

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
Grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

POSTLUDE: *“Go Now in Peace”*

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