

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Jennifer McDavid

This has been a year. We are seven months into 2020, waist deep in COVID with the numbers of infected people in our state and country rising rapidly. We are also experiencing a period of reckoning in our nation where we are finally rising (mostly) collectively to address and hopefully eradicate racial inequality and injustice.

As I have gotten older, I have learned that there is very little stark contrast in our world. There are very few things that we can point to and label “good” or “bad” without some kind of caveat. We live in the gray zone. In the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, the farmer plants good seed, and an enemy comes to plant weeds behind him. These two (the farmer and enemy) are so often not separate beings. We plant what we think is good seed; yet, we often plant weeds along with the good. As Christians, we must seek to nourish good seed by being good neighbors and seeking truth and humility, while at the same time living among the weeds of inequality, injustice, and pain. We cannot separate ourselves from the evils of the world, but we are called to bring justice, kindness, and mercy to our little corner of the world.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 19, 2020 | online, 10:00a | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Prayer of Preparation

“Only kinship. Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle... We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away.”

- Father Gregory Boyle

Gathering and Preparing for God's Word

Prelude *God Leads Us Along* arr. Harlan

Welcome and Announcements

Sentences of Scripture from *Ephesians 4:1-6*

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all.

Hymn #36 *For the Fruit of All Creation* AR HYD Y NOS
See hymn sheet.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Holy and gracious God, we know we have been shallow and short-sighted
with our love.

We have retrieved tired formulas of faith,
wondering what's in it for us instead of asking what our
neighbor truly needs.

We have fallen back on idols of fear, not trusting in your goodness,
your grace, and your gospel.

Forgive us, and grant us a new imagination.

Help us to see the world as you see it,
and to seek the good of our neighbor every day.

Give us compassionate minds and hopeful hearts,
so that we would learn new ways of belonging to each other,
and rejoice in the ways we all belong to you. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18, 23-24*

Message for Children

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 13:24-30*

Sermon "All Tangled Up Together"

Anthem *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* arr. Dake

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith, From *The Confession of 1967*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.

In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

Morning Prayers

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 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.

Hymn #757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* KINGSFOLD
See hymn sheet.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Prelude from Te Deum* Charpentier

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, Ben Dorr, *liturgists*

Grayson White, *lay reader*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Emily Sweezey, Judy McKenney, Hunter Ditsch,

Kelly Kemp, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.