

13th Sunday of the Year

Theme: Hospitality

Welcome and Stilling

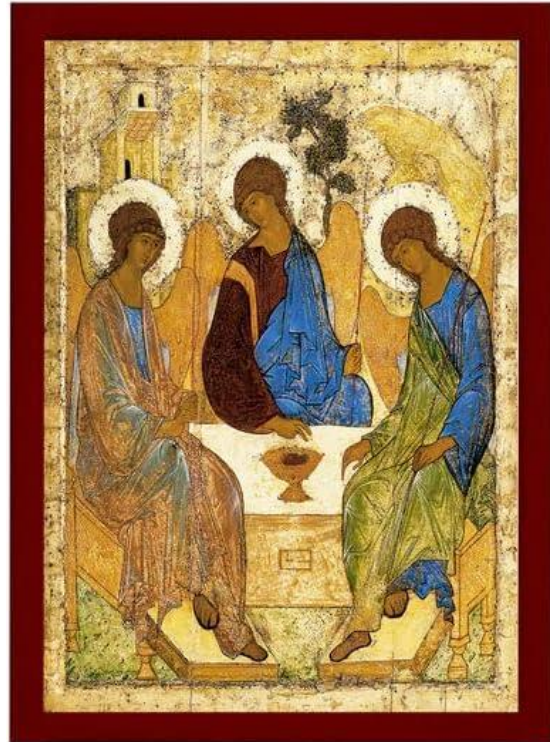
Hymn

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away, shamed as disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.



Liturgy of the Word

II Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

One day Elisha passed through Shunem. A leading lady of the town talked him into stopping for a meal. And then it became his custom: whenever he passed through, he stopped by for a meal.

“I’m certain, said the woman to her husband, that this man who stops by with us all the time is a holy man of God. Why don’t we add on a small room upstairs, and furnish it with a bed and desk, chair and lamp, so that when he comes by he can stay with us?”

And so it happened that the next time Elisha came by he went to the room and lay down for a nap. One day when he came, he went up to his room and lay down. Then he asked his servant Gehazi, "Is there anything we can do for this woman? There's got to be something we do for her. But what?" Gehazi said, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is an old man."

"Call her in," said Elisha. He called her and she stood at the open door. Elisha said to her, "This time next year you're going to be nursing an infant son."

Pause

Psalm: Entertaining Angels

The sun goes down upon the dusty street / I hear a knock, the sound of weary feet
I haven't got much, just water and some bread / But something whispers, "Let this soul be fed".

I pull a chair up to the humble table / Not knowing I am hosting heaven's fable
A gentle stranger with a quiet grace / And suddenly, my home becomes a holy place.

For we might be entertaining angels / Unaware of heaven's grand design
When we open up our lives to strangers / We might be hosting the divine.
Oh, the mystery of the kingdom / Hidden in a sojourner's eyes
Lord, give me eyes to see Your favour / In the least of these, the Christ.

I pour the cup, I pass the breaking loaf / I listen to the stories that they spoke
They talk of redemption, of a love so wide / And suddenly, I'm the one who's warm inside.

I brush away the dirt from off their feet / I feel a holy reverence in this meet
Who am I to hold such treasure in my hand? / A momentary glimpse of the promised land.

When I was hungry, You gave me to eat / When I was thirsty, You gave me a drink
When I was a lonely traveller on the street
You opened up the door, and drew me to the brink / Of endless love, of endless grace
I saw Your face, I saw Your face!

So keep the porch light burning through the night / Keep the welcome mat in view, keep the fire bright
We never know the guests that God will send / To walk with us and be a neighbour and a friend.

Don't turn away the one who's dressed in rags / Don't miss the holy moments in the dust and flags
For God arrives in the most unrecognised / To turn our ordinary water into wine.
Keep the door open..... Keep the table set.... We never know the guests we'll get
Entertaining angels unawares / Lord, give me eyes to see / Lord, make my heart aware.

Pause.

Romans 6: 3-4,8-11

Baptism into the life of Jesus means that when we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. What we believe is this: if we are united in Christ's sin-conquering death, we are also united in his life-transforming resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death- as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

Pause

Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia.

Open our whole self to hear the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

The Gospel of Mark 10:37-42

Jesus taught the Twelve as follows: If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me. If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

We are intimately linked in this harvest work. Anyone who accepts what you do, accepts me - and the One who sent me. Anyone who accepts what I do accepts my Father who sent me. Accepting a messenger of God is as good as being God's messenger. Accepting someone's help is as good as giving someone help. This is a large work I have called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing.

Pause

Lectio (20 mins)

The Immigrants Creed

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger, And returning to his own country suffered the oppression of the tyrant Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power; who then was persecuted, beaten, and finally tortured, accused and condemned to death unjustly.

But on the third day, this scorned Jesus rose from the dead, not as a foreigner but to offer us citizenship in heaven.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the church is the secure home for the foreigner and for all believers who constitute it, who speak the same language and have the same purpose.

I believe that the communion of the saints begins when we accept the diversity of the saints. I believe in the forgiveness of sin, which makes us all equal,

and in reconciliation, which identifies us more than does race, language, or nationality.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

Beyond this work, I believe in life eternal in which no one will be an immigrant but all will be citizens in God's kingdom which will never end. Amen.

(by Revd. Jose Luis Casal in the Book of Common Worship: 2018. Presbyterian Church)

Bidding Prayers

Eucharistic Prayer

Sign of Peace

Communion Hymn Blessing of Hospitality

Prayer for the Road Ahead

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end...

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road,

though I may know nothing about it.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. *Thomas Merton*

Notices

Final Hymn

Give me joy in myself, keep me laughing / Give me joy in myself I pray

Give me joy in myself, keep me laughing / Keep me laughing in myself AND SHARE

Chorus: Joy-oy-oy-oy-oy, x 3 (*Very deep belly laughs*)

AND SHARE