

Worship Service
Proper 11, 7th Sunday of Pentecost

Theme: "Knowing and Choosing God's Way"

WE GATHER AS GOD'S CHILDREN

Call to Worship:

King of all the earth,
Creator of the universe,
Holy Triune God,
From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.
Your law brings life, O Lord, and we meditate on it day and night;
Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.
You are a rich stream of living waters, and we would immerse ourselves in
you;
Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.
You bring forth fruit in due season and establish the work of our hands;
Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.
Who is like our God, the One whose ways are full of life?
Happy are we when we walk in your ways, O Lord.
This is our God, the Holy One.
Come before him with thanksgiving
and offer him the sacrifice of praise.

*Songs of Praise: **"I Will Enter His Gates"**

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter his courts with praise.
I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made."
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad,
he has made me glad;
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad,
he has made me glad;
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

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"This is the Day" BoP#78

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God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*):

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

We Pass the Peace of Christ to Our Neighbour

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,
We call you Lord,
Yet it is too easy for us to worship other things.
Other activities, other relationships, other gods.

**You tell us we cannot serve two masters,
Yet we spend more time focusing our energies elsewhere,
Diverting our time, our energy, our money, our attention away from you.**

Forgive us, gracious Savior,
When our hearts are led astray
When we serve other gods and worship them.

**We turn away from our distractions and sin.
Strengthen us to set our faces toward Jerusalem,
To take up our cross and follow you.**

We pray this, counting on your grace. **Amen.**

Solo (George McMillan): "His Grace is Sufficient for Me"

Words of Assurance inspired by James 4:7-8:

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Draw near to God
and submit yourselves to God's ways
and God will draw near to you in mercy.

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Sisters and Brothers,
your sins are forgiven;
be at peace.

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Song of Commitment: **"I Shall Not Be Moved"** (African-American spiritual)

Refrain:

I shall not be, I shall not be moved.
I shall not be, I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

1 When my cross is heavy,
I shall not be moved,
when my cross is heavy,
I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

2 When my burden's heavy,
I shall not be moved,
when my burden's heavy,
I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

3 If my friends forsake me,
I shall not be moved,
If my friends forsake me,
I shall not be moved;
like a tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved.

A Time of Sharing with the Youth:

Youth Song: **"O God, You Are my God (Step by Step)"**

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O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. (2x)
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Reading: **Fran McMillan**

Psalm 1

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "The way to Fruitful Living"

The Psalms/Psalter

The Psalter is made up of five books, which reflects Jewish comments on the Psalter as a sort of "second Torah" put to music.

The first two Psalms have no heading and seem to serve as an introduction to the Psalter.

After **the introduction**, the Psalter seems to begin primarily with **laments and complaints**, and progresses gradually to the Psalms of **praise and thanksgiving** which dominate the latter part of the Psalter. Perhaps the intent is to highlight the frailty of the human condition and the need for dependence on God.

Some of the categories of the types of Psalms include: **Laments, Thanksgivings, Praise, Salvation History Psalms, Royal Psalms, and Wisdom Psalms.**

A General Outline of the Psalter, reflects on Israel's experience with God and could be as follows:

Introduction (1-2) - Contrast between the righteous and the wicked and an affirmation of divine choice of the anointed king & divine defense of the king.

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1. Book One (1-41) David's Conflict with Saul. Many individual laments, many mention enemies.
2. Book Two (42-72) David's Kingship. Many laments and enemy psalms Key Psalms: 45, 48, 51, 54-64.
3. Book Three (73-89) The Assyrian Crisis. Asaph & Sons of Korah. Key Psalm-78.
4. Book Four (90-106) Introspection about the Destruction of the Temple and Exile Praise Collection: 95-100 Key Psalms 90, 103-105.
5. Book Five (107-150) Praise and Reflection on Return from Exile and Beginning of a New Era.
 - Hallelujah Collection: 111-117
 - Songs of Ascent: 120-134
 - Davidic Reprise: 138-145
 - Key Psalms: 107, 110, 119

The Psalter can be called a little Bible as it summarizes everything that is found in the other 65 books of the Bible.

John Calvin stated in one of his writings that, "***In the Book of Psalms there is nothing wanting which relates to the knowledge of eternal salvation.***"

Today we will look a little at Psalm 1 which is an introduction to the Psalms and addresses our submission to following God's way and flourishing while we follow God's way.

Interesting Psalm one and by extension the entire Psalms begin with a beatitude. "Blessed is the one."

It is not accidental that this verse is an introduction to the entire book of Psalms as the Psalm invites us to use this entire book as a guide to a blessed life.

In these first two verses, there is one central thought which underlines Christian living and it is:

Blessed is the one or happy is the one who delights in the law or word of the Lord and meditates on the Lord's word day and night.

Verse 1 tells us that the blessed do not do.

While on the other hand verse 2 tells us what the blessed do.

So if we want to be blessed or joyful child of God or a joyful or happy Christian we cannot dwell in the counsel of the ungodly.

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The ungodly are those who are going to tell us things that are contrary to the things of God and the holy scriptures. These things may sound good or may be very persuasive, they may even tell you that it is in the bible but it is somehow their own warped, self seeking and biased interpretation of scripture.

The ungodly spews hate and scorn and values divisiveness and malice. One Pastor is in hot water in the United States because he called another group of Pastors ungodly as they were praying with Donald Trump right after he signed an executive order into law banning people from the US because of their religion.

Discrimination of any sort is ungodly.

Hatred of any sort is ungodly

Malice of any sort is ungodly

There are Pastors and Christians who give ungodly counsel.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Notice friend that the text isn't saying that we cannot have ungodly friend. The text says, do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.

Also, if your desire is to keep your joy, we cannot stand in the way of sinners. So, the way of the sinner is to continue in sin, it is to perpetuate a way of life that is sinful and will eventually take us further and further away from God. The way of sinners is divisive and will always lead to corruption and the distorting of life.

I had a very good friend once who I respected a whole lot, he was older than I was and I looked up to this guy very much but he wasn't a Christian. I went to him for marriage advice and shortly after listening to him I realised that the advice he was giving was sinful and would ruin my marriage if I followed it.

The Psalmist also says, if we wish to remain joyful, we cannot sit in the seat of the scornful. Atheists and agnostics and sceptics fall in the list of those who are scornful. It is those who constantly curse God or continue to question the existence of God.

In these first two verses it is clear that if we desire joy or blessings as God's people we have to take pleasure in the word of the Lord and not just that but meditate

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on the Lord's word day and night. The law here in verse two is the torah, the basic meaning is Godly instruction, God's commandments and ordinances.

Psalms 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Paul says in Philippians 4: 8

whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Verse 3 uses a long simile to describe the good outcome of the blessed life.

If we follow the word of the Lord and meditate on it and stay in God's way.

We shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

When we trust God and follow Godly teaching we shall flourish, we will remain formidable, we will grow in grace, we will prosper and not have to discriminate against anyone else who the Lord's will is to prosper.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

⁸ For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

The way to living in Christ and maintaining joy is to keep in the Lord's way at all times. **Amen.**

Song of Response: **"When We Walk With the Lord"**

1 When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,

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what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. *[Refrain]*

3 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. *[Refrain]*

John H. Sammis (1887) | Public Domain

Reception and Profession of Faith of Lynda Johnson

Song of Commitment:

“Lead Me, Lord”

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, longing for their Lord,
for God's coming kingdom shall be theirs,
Blessed are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled,
and the humble shall possess the earth.

Refrain:

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord,
by the light of truth
to seek and to find the narrow way.
Be my way; be my truth;

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be my life, my Lord,
and lead me, Lord, today.

2 Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs,
and the pure in heart shall see their God.
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill,
for I say they shall be satisfied. *Refrain*

3 Blest are they who through their lifetimes sow the seeds of peace,
all will call them children of the Lord.
Blest are you, though persecuted in your holy life,
for in heaven, great is your reward. *Refrain*

Text: Matthew 5:3-12: 7:7, 13; John 14:6

Text and Music: John D. Becker © 1987, OCP Publications

WE BRING OUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Prayer of thanksgiving for the Family of God.

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

Song (during offering): Be the Centre

1 Jesus be the Centre
Be my Source be my Light
Jesus

2 Jesus be the centre
Be my hope be my song
Jesus

Chorus
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus Jesus

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3 Jesus be my vision
Be my path be my guide
Jesus

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Sung Response: **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** BoP#79

WE GO OUT UNITED IN FAITH AND PURPOSE

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: **"Be Thou My Vision"** BoP#461