

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

September 5, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Do not put your trust in rulers,

In mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

On that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Who executes justice for the oppressed.

The Lord watches over the stranger, and upholds the orphan and the widow.

But the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

Let us trust in the Lord as we worship this day.

* HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” No. 281

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess the truth of our lives to the One who loves us eternally.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of endless love and favor, we bow before you to acknowledge our mortal frailty. We confess that we have not been true to you or to ourselves. We try to hide the reality of our weakness and smallness. In our anxiety to cover up our limitations we pretend that we should be perfect and we deny our need for you. We become unforgiving of the weakness and smallness of self and neighbor. We become harsh as

we expect perfection. Forgive our illusions. Soften our hearts. Bless us with laughter and grace. Help us accept ourselves as you have made us. In the spirit of Jesus, our teacher and guide, we pray.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of God triumphs over judgment through the grace shown in Jesus. Your sins are forgiven. May God's peace be with you. **And also with you**

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

God has shown us that those who are generous are blessed. From the riches of God's grace, let us present our gifts of gratitude to bless those in need.

The Offering plate is in the Narthex. You may also choose to mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website, cazpres.org.

* DOXOLOGY No. 592

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Generous God, thank you for these gifts we bring from your abundance. Bless gifts and givers to show your love to all those in need. We pray in the spirit of Jesus, healer of the sick, advocate of the afflicted, provider for the poor. Amen.

* HYMN “Though I May Speak” No. 335

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of healing grace, you know our need. Illuminate our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may receive your word and demonstrate your grace in our own lives. Amen.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-30 (NRSV) Pew Bible p. 40 *NT*

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.^[a] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir,^[b] even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

NEW TESTAMENT: James 2:1-10, 14-17 (NRSV)

Pew Bible p. 215 *NT*

2 My brothers and sisters,^[a] do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?^[b] **2** For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"^[c] **4** have you not made distinctions among

yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.^[d] Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? **7** Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **9** But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters,^[a] if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? **15** If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? **17** So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SERMON

"A Living Faith"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our

Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

May the Lord be with you / **and also with you**

Lift up your hearts / **we lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks and praise / **it is right to give our thanks and praise**

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

* **HYMN** "O for a World" No. 386

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Join us after service for coffee and fellowship in the side yard outside the Meeting House.

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Liturgist: Scott Campbell

Ushers: Diane Campbell, Carla Kinney

Flowers: Nancy Hall

Coffee Hour:

CHURCH OFFICE (315) 655 – 3191

Office@cazpres.org

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 3pm

The Church Staff

Interim Pastor Sam Pendergrast
Clerk of Session Carla Kinney
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Church School Coordinator BJ Palmer
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