



## *The Power of Words*

### *A Service for the Worship of God* *Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

June 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

#### PREPARATION

- *Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*
- *If you have a child, please print out the last page, called “Children’s Page” for coloring.*

#### Gathering Around God’s Word

Prelude

*Jim Pera*

Welcome and Announcements

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Josh Sweeney, Director of Children’s Ministries*

Call to Worship

*One: Gracious God, enlarge our hearts,*

**All: so we can become compassionate enough to serve our neighbors.**

*One: Broaden our minds,*

**All: so we may see you in others.**

*One: Deepen our souls,*

**All: so we may overflow with your grace.**

*One; Fill us with your love,*

**All: so we may be grateful enough to share it each and every day. Amen.**

Hymn # 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

*omit verse 2*

*See next page*

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

## Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are grateful that we can bring our honest prayers to you. We look back on our behavior and know there have been moments when we chose wrong over right. There have been people we could have helped, but didn't. There are those words we should not have spoken, but we did. There are times when we could have listened to others with kindness and understanding but chose to complain and act selfishly instead. In your mercy, forgive us and transform us into the disciples you call us to be.

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)* Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Our Creator listens to our hearts and heals our brokenness.*

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*One: We rejoice in God who transforms us with a love beyond measure.*

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Response to Forgiveness** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates" *Hymn # 93, verse 3*  
*(Organist will play once, then congregation will sing it with the soloist.)*

**Redeemer come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

## Passing of the Peace

*One: The peace of Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

## Hearing God's Word

**Scripture Reading** Psalm 34: 1-5, 11-14 *Ruth Whatley and Rev. Laura Nile*

*(The soloist will sing the refrain, and then those at home can sing it a second time with her. Verses will be read together, followed by everyone singing the refrain where indicated by "R.")*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ-teous-ness;

make thy way plain be - fore my face.

*One: I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

*One: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together.*

**R**

*One: I sought the Lord, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

**All: Look to God, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

**R**

*One: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you awe of the Lord.  
Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?*

**All: Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

**R**

**Children's Time**

*See [Children's Page at end of bulletin.](#)*

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Scripture Reading**

James 3:1-12

*Rev. Laura Nile*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire.

The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord our God, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Anthem**

“Here I Am, Lord”  
*Ruth Whatley, soloist*

*Daniel L. Schutte*

**Sermon**

“The Power of Words”

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

***Responding to God's Word***

**Hymn # 722**

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

*verses 1,4, and 5*

*See next page.*

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing  
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering  
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious  
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my  
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so -  
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that  
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that  
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and  
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
 I may feed your hun - gery ones with man - na sweet.  
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - ya heart.  
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

**Moment for Mission**

Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

*Kevin Dickson*

**Presentation of Offerings**

If you would like to give online, please go to [www.sminster.com/give](http://www.sminster.com/give) where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

**Presentation Hymn** *Sung to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King."*

6 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
12 lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; Praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

*Rev. Laura Nile*

**Prayers of the People and 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. Amen.

**Hymn # 707**

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"  
*See next page.*

*verses 1 and 2*

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;  
 2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;  
 3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;  
 4 Take thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;

give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;  
 come thou with - in our souls and claim thy throne;  
 have in our in - most souls thy per - fect way;  
 through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.

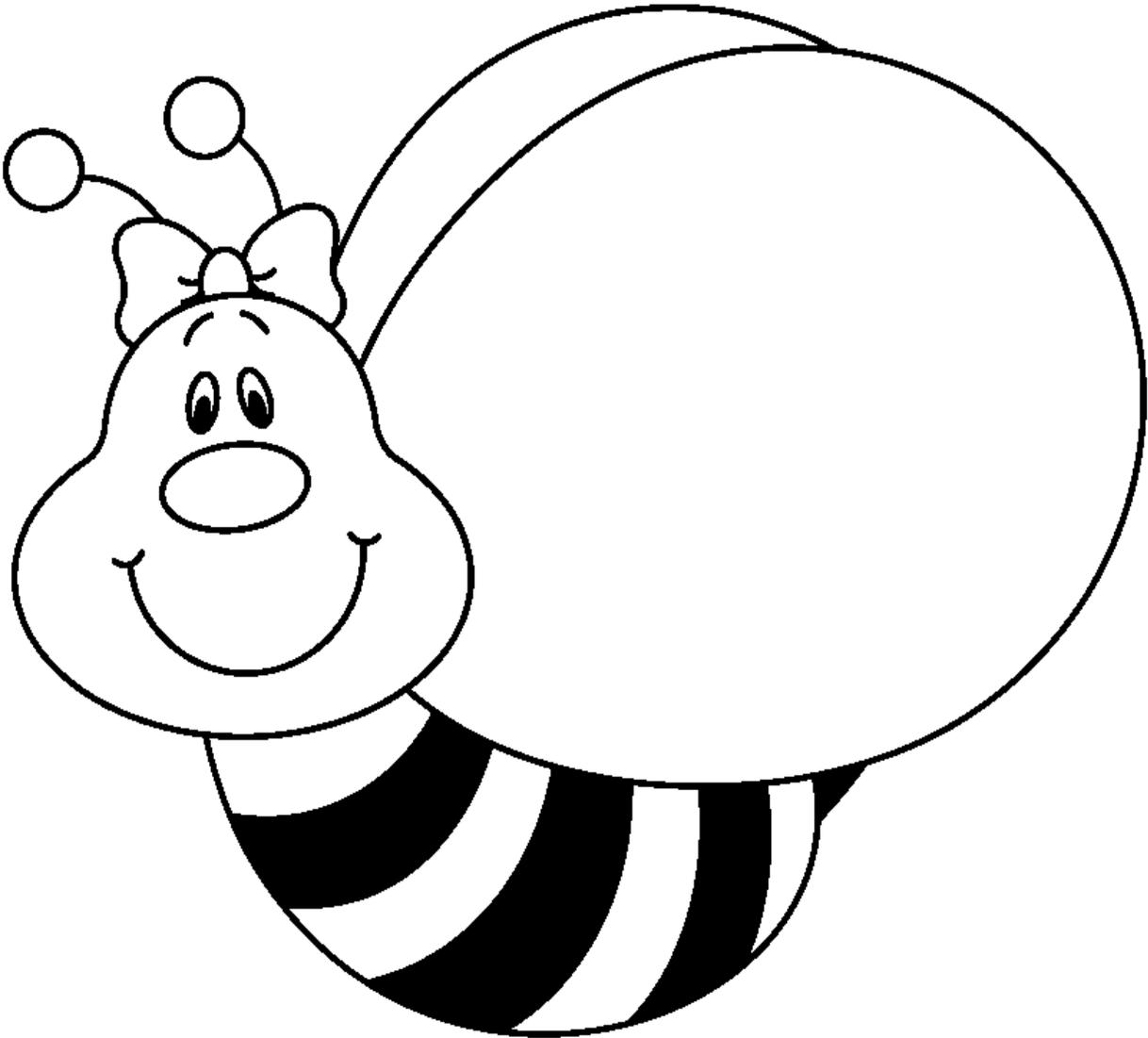
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
 help us to shed a - broad thy death - less love;  
 guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;  
 We yield our - selves to thee: time, tal - ents, all;

grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.  
 use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.  
 guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.  
 we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

## Children's Page



**Words are such funny things,  
They can be lovely  
or give bitter stings.**

**Think hard before you let them go,  
You cannot get them back, you know.**