



"Jacob and the Angel" sculpture by Nathan Rapoport

A Service for the Worship of God *Ninth Sunday After Pentecost*

August 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

- Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.
- For Communion, please have a cup of juice and a piece of any kind of bread for each person worshipping in your home.
- Please make a copy of the "Children's Page" at the end of the bulletin for children.

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Josh Sweeney

Call to Worship

from the poem, "Let the Star of Morning Rise," by Ted Loder

*One: Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of morning,
of birth, the herald of a new day you are making,
a day of great joy dawning in yet faint shafts of light and love.*

**All: I hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh breezes of promise stirring,
little sparrows chirping of life, a baby's cry of need and hope.**

*One: In the darkness, I see the light and find in it comfort, hope and
cause for celebration, for the darkness cannot overcome it;*

**All: and I rejoice to nourish that light in myself, in other people, in the world;
for the sake of the one in whom it was born and shines forever,
even Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

1 “I will come to you in the si - lence;
 2 “I am hope for all who are hope - less;
 3 “I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom; I

I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.

You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand

still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)

Refrain All

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by

name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I

love you and you are mine.” 4 “I

Prayer of Confession

Here at the river’s edge, healing God, we are hesitant to cross over. On the other side are all the people we have hurt, ridiculed or ignored. Across the water stand those we have not always helped, though we know they are our brothers and sisters—the poor, the homeless and those we dismiss because they disagree with us or challenge us.

We admit, Lord, that before we can move to the side of compassion and holy love, we must struggle with you. We cannot fully share your love with others if we have not encountered you and wrestled with what it means to trust in you. Forgive us, and reconcile us to yourself and to each other. In your mercy, carry us across the river as faithful disciples of the one we are blessed to call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent prayer of confession... Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Neither this world nor your life is so broken
that God cannot restore it to wholeness.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. God shows us the way home.**

*One: May the experience of forgiveness
make our hearts more like the heart of God*

All: **so that we learn to love and forgive one another.**

Response to Forgiveness “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” *Sing Twice*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-19

O Lord, you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.
You are loving to everyone and your compassion is over all your works.
You uphold all those who fall and lift up those who are bowed down.
The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season
You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.
You are near to those who call upon you, on all who call upon you faithfully.
You fulfill the desire of those who are in awe of you, you hear their cry and save them.

Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision”
arr. Heather Sorrenson

Small Vocal Ensemble

Children's Time

*Nancy Birdsong
(After worship, children can discuss the “Children's Page” with parents.)*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."

Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Sermon

"Wrestling"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong



"Jacob Wrestling with the Angel" by Gustav Dore

Responding to God's Word

Hymn # 288

Spirit of the Living God
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Presentation of Offerings

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

Presentation Hymn #295

verse 1, sing twice

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Table



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D)

(Bm)

F

Dm



le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G)

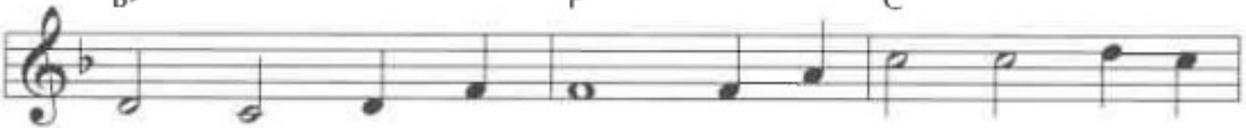
(D)

(A)

B^b

F

C



food for - ev - er - more.
 came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
 with you; do not fear!"
 tell your love and care.

(Bm)

(F[#]m)

(Bm)

(G)

(A)

(D)

Dm

Am

Dm

B^b

C

F



for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm)

(G)

(D)

Dm

B^b

F



gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

If we were in the same room, we would be serving each other, but today, each of you will serve yourselves or a family member.

After the words, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” are spoken, serve a family member (or, if alone, serve yourself), saying the same words.

After the words, “The Cup of the New Covenant, given for you,” are spoken, do the same.

The bread broken and the cup poured by the pastors symbolizes our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.

Prayer After Communion 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 # 837

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”
(Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)

(See hymn on next page.)

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

Benediction

Postlude



*Alabaster sculpture of
 "Jacob and the Angel"
 by Sir Jacob Epstein*

Children's Page



Have you ever play-wrestled with a friend or with your brother or sister?

Have you ever wrestled with a decision or just had a hard time figuring out what to do about a problem?

Have you ever wrestled with your faith? Maybe you aren't sure what you believe about God, and you have a lot of questions. Exploring those questions is a good thing!

Have you ever wrestled with your feelings?

Maybe you were upset about something and it made you cry or it made you angry.

Maybe you didn't know what to do with your feelings so you had a tantrum or a melt-down. Did your Mom or Dad send you to your room so you could work it out yourself? The next time your Mom or Dad hugged you or held you close, how did it feel?

What happened in our Bible story when Jacob was wrestling with his feelings?

How does it feel to know that when you are wrestling with your thoughts and feelings and questions, God is there with you, holds you close, and loves you?