

The Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church of Orinda, California

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Independence Day

GATHERING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

WELCOME AND WORSHIP NOTES

OUR GATHERING SONG "O BEAUTIFUL" (ELW #888)

Lyrics by Katherine Bates / Music by Samuel Ward

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:*

*America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.*

*O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.*

OUR OPENING LITURGY

- L: Let us confess our sin and our sinfulness to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love Creator God, from the beginnings of time, You have given good gifts to your people,
- C: **But we have taken Your gifts and Your blessings for granted, and misused them for our selfish gain. Forgive us.**

- L: In the person of your Son Jesus, You gave us life in abundance,
- C: **But we have become enamored of definitions of abundance and life which declare You to be false. Forgive us.**
- L: By the power of Your Spirit, you have made us recipients of Your amazing grace,
- C: **But we have refused to share that grace with others, as if more for others would somehow mean less for us. Forgive us.**
- L: People of God, hear an amazing promise. Your sin and your sinfulness are forgiven. For freedom, Christ has set you free. Free to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength and mind. Free to love your neighbor as yourself. So together, let us pray:
- C: **Holy One, You call us to be your light in the darkness, your voice in the wilderness, your hope for the hopeless. Give us strength in our weakness, gentleness in our witness, and humility in our service, that we might embody your love for a broken world. For we ask this in the name of the One who has been with you from the Beginning, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LESSON

1 John 3:11-24

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and

love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

THE CANTICLE "THE GIFT OF LOVE"
Lyrics and Music by Hal Hopson

KIDTALK Pastor John Valentine

THE SERMON Pastor John Valentine

WORDS TO LIVE BY from 1 John 4

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

THE OFFERTORY "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
Lyrics by Francis Scott Key / Music att. J. S. Smith

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(Utilizing the prayer refrain: "Lord of Love **Hear our prayer**" and concluding with 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

OUR SENDING SONG "THIS IS MY SONG" (ELW #887)
Lyrics by Lloyd Stone / Music by Jean Sibelius

***This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;***

***but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.***

***My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.***

***This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.***

THE CHARGE

Go, in peace, to love God by serving your neighbor!
Thanks be to God!

THE SENDING MUSIC

Julie Hamre

Thank you to this week's Worship Team, including:

Bethany Valentine – Vocalist and Creative Director
Gretchen Stenson – Vocalist
Dr. Joe Zingale – Vocalist
Pastor John Valentine – Vocalist
Julie Hamre – Pianist

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.