

Spokane Valley United Methodist Church

June 23rd, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Pentecost - *Open Your Heart* Summer Worship Series

Gathering Music

Betsy Pletscher

Welcome

Pastor Alissa

*Call to Worship

Theresa Meckel

Beloved, when sorrow and hardship abound and events across an ocean and down the block shake our resolve and make us question what good the good news is even doing, God calls to us...saying:

Open your heart.

When fear and misinformation infiltrate our relationships, and we don't know who to trust or how to do the next right thing, God calls to us...saying:

Open your heart.

When joy overflows, and we witness the fruit of grace all around us, transforming our lives and our communities into places of connection and flourishing, God calls to us... saying:

Open your heart.

May this time of worship be for each of us a time to listen to God's call to open our hearts and accept the divine invitation to say yes to the work of grace in us, among us, and all around us.

**God, we open our hearts to receive your gift of grace,
knowing you hold us securely in the palm of your hands
that we might have the courage to live in vulnerable community
with you and one another. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"O For A Heart to Praise My God" - UMH #417
(to the tune of UMH #57 - "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing")

Betsy Pletscher

Opening Prayer

Pastor Alissa

Holy God, we extol and honor you for who you are. We praise you for your faithfulness and for your tender mercies that are renewed every morning. We exalt you, Sovereign One, for every blessing of yesterday, the gift of this day, and the promises of our tomorrows.

Grant us an enduring faith as we strive against oppression and despair. Endow us with contagious joy that uplifts the downtrodden and inspires hope in you. Increase in us the faith and courage of the prophets, the love of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In your majestic name we pray, amen.

Announcements

Pastor Alissa

Traditional Choir

Luke Henderson

*Greeting Time & Gloria Patri - UMH #70

Betsy Pletscher

Epistle Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (NRSVA)

Theresa Meckel

As we work together with [Christ], we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience,

kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return - I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“In Sorrow and In Rejoicing”

Pastor Alissa

***Hymn of Response**

“It Is Well with My Soul” - UMH #377

Betsy Pletscher

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Alissa

It is indeed well with our souls to be drawn together as the people of God and to open our hearts to receive the generous outpouring of love and power that God gives to us. As we join together in offering our gifts back to God, may we use this time to consider what we have to offer as we join together with Christ to create a community that endures with one another through sorrows and celebrates with one another through rejoicing. Will the ushers please come forward?

Offertory

Betsy Pletscher

***Doxology**

UMH #95

Betsy Pletscher

***Offering Prayer**

Pastor Alissa

Gracious God, as we bring our offerings before you in this Pentecost season, we acknowledge the gift of your grace, freely given and yet calling us to respond. Help us not to accept your grace in vain, but to let it bear fruit in our lives and in our communities. May our actions reflect the transforming power of your grace as we open our hearts to love, to vulnerability, and to relationship, trusting in the abundance of your grace to guide us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Pastor Alissa

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation. Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts, and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations, and to be a conduit for the deep listening which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity, giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action, and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love, that our security is not threatened if we change our minds or begin to see a better way to act.

Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale – politicians, world leaders, leaders of business, and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict. Help them to open their hearts to your way just as you work with us to open our hearts to the way of your love.

Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness, and bringing people and nations together.

As we join together in this time of prayer, some of our hearts are heavy with sorrow and so we lift the names of the people and places we are concerned about this day...*silence*.

Some of us have hearts full of rejoicing this day and we lift the names and the situations that bring us joy...*silence*.

All these prayers and more we offer from hearts seeking to be open to your grace. Receive them as we join together to pray the prayer your Son taught us, saying:

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. Amen.**

Disciple 1 Graduation Recognition

Pastor Alissa & Madelyn Bafus

***Closing Hymn**

“When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise” - TFWS #2216

Betsy Pletscher

***Sending Forth**

Pastor Alissa

Children of God, today is the day of salvation!
May you go from this place carried by the grace and peace
of the Triune of God who holds you, surrounds you, and keeps you
as we learn to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation
in our sorrow and in our rejoicing. Amen.

Sending Forth Music

Betsy Pletscher