



**Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, AZ**

June 20, 2021

Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor
Deacon Paul Lewis, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Guest Organist/Pianist
Elder Paul Hay, Video-Tech



PRELUDE *"This is My Father's World"* - arr. Raney

GREETING One: This is the day that the Lord has made!
All: **Let us be glad and rejoice in it!**

INTROIT *"Jesus Calls Us"*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

*We come to this place of prayer,
for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,
our hidden fears and the doubts we wear on our sleeves.
We come to this place of grace,
for here we learn compassion and joy,
and discover how deeply we are loved.
We come with these people called the church,
to be blessed by the variety of gifts,
to live as one for our God.*

OPENING HYMN *"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"* #81 Verses 1 & 3

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken, Zion city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

There is a wildness in your Divine Mystery, my God,
A seeming randomness in the beauty of this world
As well as in every frightening disaster,
An oddness and awesome violence in the process of evolution,
An originality in creation – that outflanks all our expectations.
We would tame you, Free and Holy One, and domesticate you,

But the effort fails.

**The world you've put us into is inexhaustibly awesome and surprising,
And it speaks of creative forces ever more unknown
And not intelligible to us. Forgive us for not understanding.**

(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

Wild, Fascinating Artist Creator of Everything,
Give us ever more meaningful bridges of imagination.
Knowing that we never fully know you through images and icons,
Help us to expand our use of them to know you more fully.

**All: Guide our hearts and heads as we speak of you,
That we would harmonize with your own freedom,
Trusting our future to your perfect care. Amen.**

CHILDRENS TIME Debbie Wood

SPECIAL MUSIC "These Hands" – Noack - Back Row Boys
George Wheat, George Van Otten, Jim Diekema, Fred Whitley, Paul Lewis

SCRIPTURE – The Psalms Psalm 97

The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
³ Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
⁴ His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.
⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.
⁸ Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns^[a] of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.
⁹ For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate^[a] evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.
¹¹ Light dawns^[a] for the righteous,

and joy for the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SCRIPTURE – The New Testament

Acts 16:11-40

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Selected verses

Introduction

This passage from the Book of Acts comes after the early church has made the decision to include the Gentiles in the new community of Jesus. Paul chooses to travel with Silas to the west into Europe, the first such trip.

11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, **12** and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. **13** On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. **14** A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. **15** When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. **17** While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” **18** She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

At this point, Paul and Silas are beaten up and thrown into prison. At midnight, as they were singing and praying to God, there was a tremendous earthquake, and all the doors were opened. The jailer was about to kill himself when Paul shouted at him to not do himself harm, and after that, the jailer took them to his home to wash their wounds and he and all his household was baptized. The magistrates came the next day, and encouraged Paul and Silas to leave town quietly, but Paul insisted on an apology for imprisoning he and Silas as Roman citizens before agreeing to leave.

40 After leaving the prison they went to Lydia’s home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“Freedom in Faith”

RESPONSE

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

CLOSING HYMN

"His Eye is on the Sparrow" #661 Verses 1 & 2

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled." His tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow; and I know he watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, brothers all are we.

Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE *“Trumpet Song”* - Smith