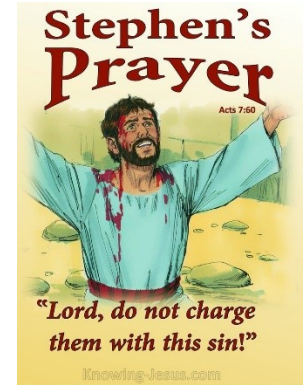




Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, AZ
August 15, 2021
Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor
Elder Bill Akins, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Bianca Garcia, Video-Tech Assistant



PRELUDE "Gloria" (from Twelfth Mass) - Mozart

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

INTROIT "Surely the Presence"

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

All: our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

All: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

All: chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

***OPENING HYMN** "Gather Us In" # 401 Versus 1,2 and 4

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matter to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

One: You are no longer alone - you are God's Beloved.
You are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom.
You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

**All: Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ.
Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDRENS TIME Sharon Townsend

SPECIAL MUSIC "Your Grace Still Amazes Me" - Craig and Harrington
Trio - Debi Godwin, Deb Koltveit, Lisa Tuttle

SCRIPTURE – The Psalms Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

SCRIPTURE – New Testament Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60, 8:1

⁸ Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” ¹² They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³ They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” ¹⁵ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

[Stephen replied] Acts 7:51-60 ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.” ⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of their killing him.

SERMON

“Acting Sacrificially”

Part 11 in the series Faithful Saints

RESPONSE

The Confession of 1967

Part of the Presbyterian Church’s Book of Confessions

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the

sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

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 *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* #223

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

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 Tune"* - Vivaldi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ Congregational Meeting ~

Sunday, August 29, 2021

There will be a Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary after the worship service on Sunday, August 29. The purpose of the meeting is to reduce the number of Elders and Deacons to 9 members each.

~ Seeking Worship Leaders ~

We are returning to sign-ups for Worship Leaders beginning August 29 - the sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Both experienced and new folks are welcome to participate.

We provide everything you need to succeed!

Elders are required for Communion Sundays.