

Sept. 13, 2009, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I see the God in you. I greet the God in you."

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you.
(repeat)

To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of your glory;
Pour out your pow'r and love,
As we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."
(repeat from beginning)

Holy, holy, holy – holy, holy, holy –
Holy, holy holy – I want to see you.

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WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

All: *Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us,
so God's Spirit is ever present and around us.
Come Creator into our lives.
We live and move and have our very being in you.
Open the windows of our souls.
Let us worship God.*

OPENING SONG (see insert) *Sing a New Song* Michael McClellan

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: "Then he took a child and put it among them."

All: *When we use long words and confusing sentences, put a child among us.*

One: When we let the cares of the world drag us down, when the demands of life seem overwhelming, put a child among us.

All: *When we are tempted to deceive or to selfishly sway an opinion, put a child among us.*

One: When we need love, recognition, or a great big hug, put a child among us.

All: *When we need to get the values of church, family, or community in proportion, put a child among us.*

Time of reflection...

One: "Then he took a little child and put it among them."

All: *The vulnerability and trust of children challenges our attitudes and our lifestyle; we are humbled!*

One: Pardon and peace are yours, children of God.

All: *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

DEDICATION OF TEACHERS AND LEADERS

One: God, we give thanks for the Sunday school teachers who, with patience and commitment, guide our children in encountering you through story, activity, conversation and sharing.

All: *Thank you, God, for the teachers who create sacred learning space for our children's faith to grow.*

One: God, we give thanks for the leaders who nurture faith towards maturity by walking alongside youth in their questions, interactions, and search for meaning.

All: *Thank you, God, for the leaders who create a sacred, welcoming space for our youth's faith to develop.*

One: God, we give thanks for the leaders who share their passion for learning by teaching Bible and theology; guiding discussion on family and faith, difficult issues in our world.

All: *Thank you, God, for the leaders who help us think new thoughts, ask new questions, share new understandings and join with others in following the way of Jesus Christ.*

One: Teacher God, bless the teaching ministry in this congregation. May we always find willing teachers and eager learners who come with deep desire to grow in knowledge and faith.

All: *For the gifts of our teachers, freely offered and gratefully received, thanks be to God. Amen.*

(Children are invited to go to Sunday School)

A POEM From the book *Journey Through Heartsongs* Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Our eyes are for looking at things,
But they are also for crying
When we are very happy or very sad.
Our ears are for listening,
But so are our hearts.
Our noses are for smelling food,
But also the wind and the grass and
If we try very hard, butterflies.
Our hands are for feeling,
But also for hugging and touching so gently.
Our mouths and tongues are for tasting,
But also for saying words, like
"I love you," and
"Thank You, God. For all of these things."

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG *God With Us* Sarah Hart /Jayme Thompson

You are higher than all of our questions,
You are deeper than all of our needs,
Wider than all that we can imagine;
You are greater than anything.

You are stronger than all of our burdens,
You are sweeter than all of our dreams,
Closer than all the air that surrounds us,
You are greater than anything.

(Refrain)

*You are holy, Holy God Almighty, God with us.
You are holy, Holy God Almighty, God with us.
God with us.*

You bring joy into all of our sadness,
You bring peace into all of our pain,
Shining light into all of our darkness;
You are greater than anything.

(Refrain)

Ever before us and ever beside us,
Ever above us and ever behind us,
Ever around us and ever within us, and always ~
God with us. *(Refrain)*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:13-16 NRSV
People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms and blessed them.

SERMON *The Journey of Life: The Youngest Among Us* Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *Unless You Learn* Haugen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG (see insert) *With One Voice* Ricky Manalo

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy: *Gathering - Gifts of Many Cultures, Gathering Words and Invocations*; *Renewing the Covenant - Prayers to Share, Year B*, David Sparks.

Thanks to Cindy Sieber and Craig Davis for serving as liturgists for this morning's service.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

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