

REV. ALBERT RHODES STUART

NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WORSHIP PLAN

DATE: Sun., 20 September 2020 SEASON: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

✠ ✠ ✠ PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

PRELUDE:

JOYS, CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No singing of the hymns; Josh will sing them & Michele will play the flute.
- Today:
 - Next Sunday — 9:45 AM Kitchen Class
 - 11 AM Piano Dedication
 - 3 PM Pastor Rusty's Installation
- This Week:
 - Tuesday @ 6 PM — Learners' Fellowship Class
 - Next Sunday — 9:45 AM Kitchen Class
 - 11 AM Worship
- The Church Website has been and is being updated. Remember to check: <http://northlibertypc.org>
- The Worship Service videos will be uploaded to Pastor Rusty's YouTube channel (Albert Stuart) and to the Church's channel (North Liberty). If you don't know how to access the YouTube channels, not to worry, I will be posting the links to the FaceBook group.
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TIME OF MEDITATION:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Glory to the Father in Whom all things began!

People: Glory to the Son Who became the Son of Man!

Pastor: Glory to the Spirit Who inspires and renews, the Lord our God forever! You will say in that day: I will give thanks to You, O LORD, for though You were angry with me, Your anger turned away, and You comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation.

People: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations; proclaim that His Name is exalted.

Unison: Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

(Isaiah 12:1-6)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Pastor: O Lord of Life and King of the Universe: We appeal to You as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ — the Father of glory — that through Him You would bestow upon us the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might have true knowledge of Him. And, that having the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know that True Hope hope to which He calls us.

As we seek You, we beg Your Triune presence among us you, the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward us who believe, according to the working of Your great might that You worked in Christ when You raised Him from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, in this age and in the one to come. In our worship, we seek always to know You, Who put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all the church, His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Lord, All this we seek by that eternal name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN:

“As the Deer”

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CALL TO CONFESSION:

Pastor: Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

[Hebrews 4:12-16]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Unison: Almighty God, creator of all, You marvelously made us in Your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged Your likeness by rejecting Your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the sacrifice of Your Son; remake us and lead us by Your Spirit the Comforter and Advocate. We ask this through Jesus Christ our merciful High Priest. Amen. [Adapted from *Our Modern Services; the Anglican Church of Kenya; pg 35.*]

MOMENT OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION:

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Pastor: Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ! And yet, Christ died for us; He rose for us; He reigns in power for us; and He prays for us. Therefore, if

anyone is in Christ, that one is a new creation. The old life is Gone and a new life has begun. Let us give glory to God for the forgiveness He has given us through His Son. [1 Tim. 1:15 & I Pet. 2:25]

* GLORIA PATRI:

✠ ✠ ✠ HEARING THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Almighty God, As we open ourselves to the reading and exposition of Your Word this day, we ask that you would calm and center our hearts, minds, and spirits. Remove from us the blinds upon our eyes, the stoppers within our ears, the daily diversions and discords that fog our minds and poison our souls and divert us from our serious attendance to the deep things of the Gospel and the simple. Touch us in such a way, we pray, Lord, that we daily mourn and grieve our sin and see anew the Image of God You have placed within us and each other, that we may spread Your Word and do the work You assign to us. We ask in the name and for the sake of Your only-begotten Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE:

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Exodus 6:1 - 13

¹ But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

² God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name the LORD I did not make Myself known to them. ⁴ I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'" ⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹ “Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land.” ¹² But Moses said to the LORD, “Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?” ¹³ But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

II Peter 3:1 - 18

¹ This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved

brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,
¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

SERMON: "Who Is God the Father —
Does He Exist?"
The Rev. Albert Rhodes Stuart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

✠ ✠ ✠ RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

DEDICATION OF THE PIANO: "Glorify Thy Name"

DEDICATORY COMMENTS FROM THE WORSHIP CHAIR AND THE PIANIST:
PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

to the glory of God
the Father

THE OFFERING:

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

* THE DOXOLOGY:

HYMN: "Nearer, My God to Thee" # 553

* ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE:

(Jude 24-25)

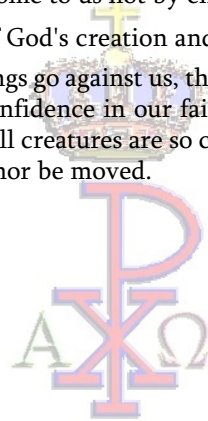
Pastor: Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

CHARGE & BLESSING:

POSTLUDE:

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 26 - 28:

- Q26] What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?
- A26] That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, Who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ His Son.
- I trust Him so much that I do not doubt He will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and He will turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this sad world.
- He is able to do this because He is almighty God; He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.
- Q27] What do you understand by the providence of God?
- A27] Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty; all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His fatherly hand.
- Q28] How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?
- A28] We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from His love. All creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they can neither move nor be moved.



Jesus Christ Is Lord,
to the glory of God
the Father