

Worship Service August 28th, 2022

Welcome and Announcements ~ Ken Taylor

Thank you to everyone who helped with the
Ham and Strawberry Supper!

Monday ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group will meet at church at 3 pm.

Tuesday ~ We will have Prayer Group at 7 pm via zoom followed by
a discussion on chapters 22 and 23 of *A Praying Life*.

Thursday ~ The first Interfaith Council Meeting of the year will be held
at 11:45 am. We will also have choir practice at 7 pm at church.

Next Sunday, Sept. 4th ~ You are invited to a Christian concert featuring
Tim Timmons at 4 pm at Horseshoe Acres Campground.
The concert is free, but you would have an opportunity to give a
donation if you would like. You are also invited to enjoy the
campground amenities before the concert and stay for the picnic
following the concert. The address is ~ 1978 Weston-Andover
Road, Andover, VT 05143.

Happy Birthday to Aiden Russell on Wednesday
and to Bruce Fielding on Friday!

The flowers this morning are given by Linda Hulett
in honor of Linda Bushee's birthday.

Word of Preparation ~ Ken Taylor

Prelude ~ Our guest musician, Dave Cobb will play the organ
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship ~ Philippians 2:1-11 (from The Message)

Please join in reading the bold lines.

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ,
if his love has made any difference in your life,

**if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you,
if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor:**

Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.

**Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the
top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.**

Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage.

Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

⁵⁻⁸ **Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.**

**He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself
that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what.**

Not at all. When the time came,

he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave,
became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human.

It was an incredibly humbling process.

He didn't claim special privileges.

**Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless,
obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.**

⁹⁻¹¹ Because of that obedience, God lifted him high
and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever,

**so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—
even those long ago dead and buried—**

**will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ,
and call out in praise that he is the Master of all,
to the glorious honor of God the Father.**

Song ~ The Worship Band will lead us in singing

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

Chorus

***Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come***

One day every tongue will confess You are God

*One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now*

Chorus

*Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
We gladly choose You now
One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now*

Chorus

*Come, just as you are
Come, just as you are
Come*

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Praying Together ~

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

Song ~ ***“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service” (#453, blue)***

*Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end*

*Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work and worth
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold
Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense
Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace*

Words ~ Jane Parker Huber, 1981 Music ~ John Zundel, 1870

Sermon Introduction ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

Scripture ~ Acts 18 (NET) read by Ken Taylor

After this Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.

²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome. Paul approached them, ³and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and worked with them (for they were tentmakers by trade).

⁴He addressed both Jews and Greeks in the synagogue every Sabbath, attempting to persuade them.

⁵Now when Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul became wholly absorbed with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

⁶When they opposed him and reviled him, he protested by shaking out his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am guiltless! From now on I will go to the Gentiles!”

⁷Then Paul left the synagogue and went to the house of a person named Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

⁸Crispus, the president of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.

⁹The Lord said to Paul by a vision in the night, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent,

¹⁰because I am with you, and no one will assault you to harm you, because I have many people in this city.”

¹¹So he stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹²Now while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews attacked Paul together and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God in a way contrary to the law!”

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¹⁴But just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of some crime or serious piece of villainy, I would have been justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews, ¹⁵but since it concerns points of disagreement about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves.

I will not be a judge of these things!”

⁶Then he had them forced away from the judgment seat.

¹⁷So they all seized Sosthenes, the president of the synagogue, and began to beat him in front of the judgment seat. Yet none of these things were of any concern to Gallio.

¹⁸Paul, after staying many more days in Corinth, said farewell to the brothers and sailed away to Syria accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because he had made a vow.

¹⁹When they reached Ephesus,

Paul left Priscilla and Aquila behind there, but he himself went into the synagogue and addressed the Jews.

²⁰When they asked him to stay longer, he would not consent

²¹but said farewell to them and added,

“I will come back to you again if God wills.”

Then he set sail from Ephesus, ²²and when he arrived at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church at Jerusalem and then went down to Antioch.

²³After he spent some time there, Paul left and went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent speaker, well-versed in the scriptures.

²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and with great enthusiasm he spoke and taught accurately the facts about Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John.

²⁶He began to speak out fearlessly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.

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²⁷ When Apollos wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he assisted greatly those who had believed by grace, ²⁸ for he refuted the Jews vigorously in public debate, demonstrating from the scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.”

Sermon ~ “Priscilla’s Christ-centered Life” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Song ~ “Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant” (#490, blue)

*Sister, let me be your servant. Brother, let me walk with you
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony.
Born of all we’ve known together of great love and agony*

*Brother, let me be your servant. Sister, let me walk with you
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too*

Words and Music ~ Richard Gillard, 1977 | Scripture in Song, Maranatha Music

Benediction ~ Inspired by Romans 16:25 & 27 (MSG)

May our praise rise
to the One who is powerful enough
to make *us* strong, wise, and loving.

May we grow more centered in Jesus Christ,
and be united to each other by a spirit of gracious servanthood.

May our lives rise as worship
guided by the Holy Spirit and the example of Jesus
to our incomparably strong, wise, and loving Father in Heaven!