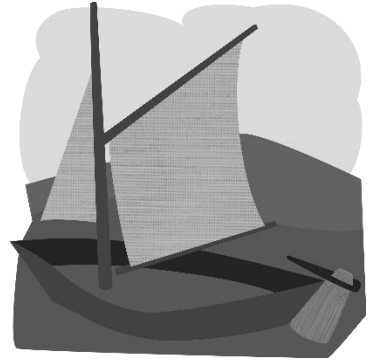


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 19

Help Our Unbelief

Is Something Burning?

September 12, 2021



AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, Jesus encounters another person possessed by an unclean spirit. The young man's father is distraught and desperate. The father utters these words: "I believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus does help the man's unbelief by healing his son. Jesus helps our unbelief as well in all that He does. In His miracles and teaching, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus calls us to faith. And He calls us to be His witnesses.

In today's Readings, James draws our attention to the tongue. Our tongues might be small but, like the rudder of a ship, the tongue is vitally important to us for staying on the right course. If the rudder is broken, the ship is adrift. If the tongue is filled with evil, so will the rest of our lives. But the tongue also boasts of great things, speaking God's good word of forgiveness and life. Remember that Jesus has restored all things, including our tongues to no longer speak evil, but to speak His Word.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Lord of Hope, Bringer of Change and New Life, Have Mercy, draw near, Finish your good and generous work. Release us from the chains of this moment, born of imprisoned years the distractions and false calls of those who cannot help the apathy keeping us from seeing, speaking, and caring the smallness of your Kingdom stealing our courage to try the slowness of your Kingdom chipping away at our enduring. Lord, make us free... free with eyes not focused upon ourselves; free with ears open to hearing Your Word; free with hands reaching out; free with hearts no longer chained by what we possess, but bound, instead, by what we can share. Yes, Lord, make us free... free to worship; free to be extravagant with thankfulness; free to break open the costliest oil upon Your feet; free to love as love really is. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE.... God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So, come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen. We hope that you will be blessed today by the fellowship you received, and that you experienced the love of God and the warmth of His saving grace. We extend the hand of friendship so that we can connect with you, for you are so valuable to the Lord and very precious in His sight.

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I called on the name of the LORD:
People: **O LORD, I believe. Help my unbelief!**

Pastor: The LORD has dealt bountifully with us.
People: **The LORD has opened our ears.**

Pastor: The LORD has delivered us from death.
People: **He wipes away tears from all faces.**

Pastor: He rescues our feet from stumbling
People: **and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Despite all of God's actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are renewed and restored. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “What A Mighty God We Serve” TFBF 295

What a mighty God we serve! What a mighty God we serve! Angels bow before him, heaven and earth adore him; what a mighty God we serve. Repeat.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your Word You spoke creation into being. Tame our tongues and guide our words so that we would proclaim Your promises to the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 50:4–10* (God sustains and vindicates His people.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO **Ms. Angela Henderson**

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE *James 3:1–12* (The tongue is small but powerful in speaking both good and evil.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Mark 9:23b*

Leader: Alleluia. All things are possible for one who believes. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SOLO **Ms. Angela Henderson**

SERMON

SOLO

Ms. Angela Henderson

(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CREED Apostles' 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 Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all who proclaim Your Word, O Lord, that the sinfulness of their tongues may not hinder Your message of grace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all those who celebrate the good news of births and birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, [*especially* . . .], let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For all those who grieve [*especially* . . .], that they find hope in the resurrection, which brings us eternal life and defeats the enemy of death, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those who govern in this nation and throughout the world, that their tongues would be kept from lying and slander, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those who struggle with spiritual oppression, that God would deliver them from evil and restore them body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those who have wandered from the Church, that the Holy Spirit would call them by the Gospel and gather them back to Your flock, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*], that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, we offer all these prayers, knowing that You hear us and bless us with what we need.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: Gracious God, You are the source of every lasting security. We bless You for the continuance of stability in a time of great national trial and ask that our nation be spared from any such act of terrorism and destruction in times to come. We remember those innocent victims of terrorism whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant that their memories among us remain and their lives not be forgotten. We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives that day seeking to assist the victims of the tragedy. Grant that their examples of bravery and sacrificial concern for others serve to inspire each of us as we live out our lives in these times.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Tune my ears to hear Your mercy, Trusting in Your Holy Word. Open wide my heart to listen To the Gospel undeterred. When the Word made flesh descended, Healing deaf and muted souls, He fulfilled the prophets' visions Written in the sacred scrolls.

Teach my tongue to tell of wisdom That can only come from You. When deceivers jeer and threaten, Keep my words upright and true. When the Word of life was dying And the devil spat disgrace, Purest blood flowed, testifying: Christ took on the sinner's place.

Train my feet, that I may follow, Tracing where You walked before. Guide my path and keep me steady Past the trial and grave in store. When the Word of truth awakened, Turning death into a lie, He declared my case acquitted— Satan's verdict to defy!

***LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.***

SERMON TITLE: _____

BIBLICAL TEXT: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

MAJOR POINTS: _____

WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)