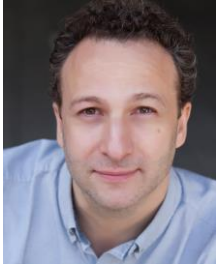


Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe
Music Director.....Colin Welford
Lay Reader.....Hugh Mulliken
Guest MusicianMolly Rhode



Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

“Passing Through”..... John R. Blakeslee

Call to Worship: Psalm 27: 1 - 5

Hymn #743 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Prayers of the Church/Lord’s Prayer

“You Oughta be Here with Me”..... Roger Miller

Scripture Lessons: Jeremiah 15: 15 – 21
Romans 12: 9 – 21

Reflection

“This Time Something’s Not Finished Yet”..... Hudson & Libman

Sermon

Benediction

“Litanies pour Grand Orgue”..... Jehan Alain

Hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer
In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Reflection by Kathleen Harris

I like old sixties westerns. Despite outdated scripts and cringeworthy costumes, they evoke safe feelings of my happy childhood. On Sunday nights at 9 p.m., we’d gather around our tv and watch Bonanza horses gallop across the Ponderosa. The villains were always caught and justice continuously served.

Today’s Scriptures offer safety from enemies through faith in God. Paul continues last week’s lesson in his letter to the Romans with specific instructions, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Share with the needy, he writes, and “practice hospitality.” The prophet Jeremiah heard it this way, “Utter what is precious, not what is worthless.” Why, then, be fearful when the Lord is our light and salvation?

Why indeed. Some days, I see enemies everywhere. “This ain’t no Ponderosa,” I think crossly. Suddenly, the image of the Napalm girl (Phan Thị Kim Phúc OOnt) pops into my mind, and then a newsreel of an ordinary airplane strangely turning along the New York skyline,

towards the North Tower. Today, in 2020, there's an invisible virus and natural disasters.

It can feel like fifty years of exhausting bewilderment. I'm hoping Pastor Dawn shares insight at today's service. Until then, let's remember moments of grace. The return of our national symbol, the bald eagle, from the brink of extinction. The 50% decline, these past five decades, in mortality of children with cancer. Two Superbowl victories for the Pack, four if our timeline stretches back to 1967. Life has been beautiful, fun, and filled with miracles. It still is, even now. What Jeremiah learned is true. God is no fickle babbling brook. He stays with us in our long suffering. "They will fight against you," the Lord revealed to the prophet, "but will not overcome you."

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