

Ephraim Moravian Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Meditation from “Thaïs” - by Jules Massenet

Call to Worship: *Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait
all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have
been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according
to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright
is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is
right, and teaches the humble his way.* Psalm 25:4-9

Hymn #742

“Come Now, O Lord”

Come now, O Lord, and teach us how to pray;
Teach us to ask ourselves from day to day;
If we are yours and yours alone will be
Through earthly days and through eternity.

Come now, O Lord, and search each inmost thought;
Ask if we love and serve you as we ought;
Do we attempt to do your holy will?
Does constant love for you our poor hearts fill?

Come now; O Lord, and as in days of old
To us your Spirit gracefully unfold;
Pour forth your love and all abounding grace;
Till we in spirit see you face to face.

Prayers of the Church/Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 21: 23-32

Siciliana & Presto (from Organ Concerto No.4) - by Georg Frideric Handel

Reflection

Sermon

Benediction

“All Creatures of our God and King” – arranged by Benjamin Dunford

Reflection - Who's in Charge?

To observe a small child having a temper tantrum is a phenomenal experience of epic proportions. They scream at the top of their lungs along with thrashing of arms and legs. So, what's going on in a case like this? The bottom line is the child is trying to exert authority over its own situation in life and over those who are around them. We might think that such behavior belongs only to little kids, but adults act out their own temper tantrums but simply use more sophisticated methods. Typically, adults will use their temper tantrums to exert power and control over other people and situations in which they find themselves. It is an attempt to get one's own way by most any means. Please note that we mistakenly think that having authority over others is something that we must force upon them.

One day Jesus was questioned about what authority he had to teach or to conduct his ministry. It's really important to say that under no circumstance did Jesus ever force his authority over anyone. Rather, his authority is derived from God and it is used to the benefit of others, not for their destruction. Jesus' authority is derived from his Heavenly Father and it is presented to us as a gift. Jesus authority is ours to freely accept and absorb in order to heal our relationships, to give us hope, and to forgive us of our sins. That is a gentle authority that uses no force or temper tantrums.

Pastor Dan G. Olson

Guest Pastor – Bishop Paul A. Graf
Music Director - Mr. Colin Welford
Lay Reader – Mr. Rob Davis
Guest Musician – Mr. Hal Halvorsen

