

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
Ephraim Moravian Church

Pastor..... Dawn E. Volpe
Music Director..... Colin Welford
Lay Reader..... Kay Tschannen
Guest Musicians.....Katie Dahl, Hal Halvorsen



Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”..... Converse/Scriven

Watchword for the Week: Give me understanding, O God, that I may
keep your law and observe it with my whole heart - *Psalm 119:34*

Hymn #386 (verses 1-3) “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Prayers of the Church/The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Romans 13: 8-14
Matthew 18: 15-20

“Shine On”..... May Erlewine

Reflection

“Only Then Will Your House Be Blessed”..... Harry Manx

Sermon

“Ring Them Bells”..... Bob Dylan

Benediction

“Carillon”..... Herbert Murrill

Hymn: “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you
Saints on earth your rule acclaim; all in heaven above adore you
Infinite your vast domain; everlasting is your reign!

Hark, the glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising;
Fill the heavens with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain and the blessed martyrs follow
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on

Reflection, by Pastor Dan Olson

Jokingly, it has been said that people go to church to confess
everyone else's sins. Hopefully, that's not true, but it does make a
point. It is true that we tend to see the speck in another's eye and not
the log in our own. This implies, of course, that I'm right and you're
wrong and that's just simply all there is to it.

Sadly, this describes life as we know it just now. I don't remember a
time when we have been so divided and splintered as a people and as a
nation. Frankly, I find it to be very scary. And dangerous. It seems as
if our very democracy is in peril. There seems to be no middle ground
and people take sides and attack others for their race, positions,
thoughts, their faith.

We are confronted these days with a killer pandemic, racial inequality, environmental disasters, and coming to terms with shifts in political power, in public health and in free speech. If these aren't enough to fracture us, I don't know what is. We've come to the place when we are in mental and emotional overload and even our Faith can be shaken.

I remember being placed in the playpen as a child and as parents we did the same. A playpen is a safe and cozy place, but if we "escape" there could be danger lurking. God's gift of the Ten Commandments is like that. They provide safety and the joy of living in harmony. But if we step beyond the Ten Commandments, we are in peril of having our lives and our love for one another erode beyond recognition. That's where all the trouble begins. We must listen when the apostle Paul reminds us to love our neighbor as ourselves. He goes on to say that "we must lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Live honorably as in the day not in quarreling and jealousy, but instead put on the Lord Jesus Christ and his love for all people."

That truly is the only hope for us to build bridges between people instead of barriers, so that we can talk and not quarrel, where we can agree rather than be disagreeable. May it be so. May it be so.

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