We Humbly Approach Our God

The Call to Confession – Luke 9:57-62

The Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned and strayed from your ways. Like lost sheep, we have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Restore our penitent hearts. And grant, O merciful God, for Jesus' sake, that we may follow you in holiness and humility to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Concludes with: (11:00)

The Anthem of Confession:

"Kyrie"

Kyrie eleison. Translation: Lord, have mercy.

The Assurance of Forgiveness: Luke 15:3-7

*The Hymn: Lift Up Your Hearts 352:1,3,4

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*The Confession of Faith – Contemporary Testimony Paragraph 41

Joining the mission of God, the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom to call everyone to know and follow Christ and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe. The Spirit calls all members to embrace God's mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.

*The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him, above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Anthem

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" (8:40)  C. Hubert H. Parry

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in your rightful mind; in purer lives, thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea, the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dew of quietness, till all our strivings cease: take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire: speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm!

*When Jesus Walked Beside the Shore" (11:00)

When Jesus walked beside the shore of ancient Galilee, four fishermen were mending nets they'd cast upon the sea. All night they fished, but empty nets were all they pulled on board; and empty hopes were all they had until they met the Lord.

“Launch out again upon the sea!” His words were firm and plain. “But Lord in vain we’ve toiled the night; why should we try again?” In spite of doubt, they set their sails and cast their nets once more; and such a catch they brought aboard, they scarce could reach the shore.

Then Peter fell upon his knees and cried “Depart from me! How can a sinner such as I behold such majesty?” But Jesus raised him up again and an apostle made: “For people now you’ll cast your net; you must not be afraid!”

O Master, as by Galilee you called those four aside and, when they launched upon the deep their labors multiplied: so come to us and call us forth to ventures in your name, and help us, leaving fear behind, your kingdom’s truth proclaim.

Words: Herman G. Stuempfle © 1993 GIA Publications

Used with permission under One License #707908
God Speaks to Us
The Sermon: “WINDOWS ON THE WORD: LEAVING YOUR NETS”

We Go in Peace
*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 869:1,2
“Here I Am, Lord”

*The Benediction

*The people’s Response: Amen.

*The Organ Amen (8:40)

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:
“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”  Karl Osterland

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Rev. Mike Hoogeboom – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist, pianist
Chancel Choir, Dr. James Borst – director (8:40)
Kathryn Becksvooort, Kim DeStigter – vocalists (11:00)
Avery Walcott and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (8:40)
Marlene Padding and Rev. Peter Jonker – Cross and Bible Bearers (11:00)

Music at LaGrave (8:40)
John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), American poet and editor, belonged to the Quakers who emphasized simplicity and purity in worship. The hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind is taken from an extended poem about an intoxicating drink called soma, brewed by a Hindu sect in India and drunk in order to become closer to God. For Whittier, ritualism and emotionalism in worship were similar to drinking Hindu soma—vain attempts to become closer to God. Charles Parry’s choral arrangement of this hymn is from the English Cathedral tradition.

The January special offering is for Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) which provides housing opportunities, home ownership counseling, home repairs and maintenance for families who otherwise cannot afford a home.

Livestreaming worship is available at lagrave.org/live

The flowers in the sanctuary today have been given in loving memory of my beloved husband, Tom Hoogeboom, on his Epiphany birthday. Marge Hoogeboom

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), American poet and editor, belonged to the Quakers who emphasized simplicity and purity in worship. The hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind is taken from an extended poem about an intoxicating drink called soma, brewed by a Hindu sect in India and drunk in order to become closer to God. For Whittier, ritualism and emotionalism in worship were similar to drinking Hindu soma—vain attempts to become closer to God. Charles Parry’s choral arrangement of this hymn is from the English Cathedral tradition.