**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 19, 2020, 10:00 AM**

 **Watchword of the Week:**

***Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:***

***I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.***

 **Isaiah 44:6**

**Prelude** *Now Thank We All Our God* with *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Arr. Berry

**Welcome and Announcements** Jerry Hailey

**Call to Worship** *This Day Is Holy to the Lord*WORSHIP

**Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer** Bill Shields

**Liturgy for Thanksgiving, p. 159** Kathy Cooke

Almighty and gracious God, you have made yourself known to us in a multitude of ways, and each of those ways invites us to respond to you with grateful hearts.

**You have been present with us even before our thoughts and words and feelings ever turned toward you.**

You created us in your own image, redeemed us with your love, and have always sustained us with your grace.

**When we think of you, gracious God, we think of your compassion and tender mercies toward us all, and we are humbled with gratitude.**

 DUKE STREET

 Lord of all being, throned afar,

 Your glory flames from sun and star;

 Center and Soul of every sphere,

 Yet to each loving heart how near!

We thank you, everpresent God, for coming to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, for entering into our human flesh and taking the form of a servant.

**We thank you for reaching the least of us while we were yet sinners and for doing all things necessary for our salvation through the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

We praise and honor you with our hearts and our lives, because we know that we could not help ourselves or earn our own salvation.

**You continue to rush out to meet us and embrace us while we are yet far off. We marvel at the depth of your forgiving love which always comes to us through the working of your Spirit. We thank you for each new experience and each new reminder of your very constant care.**

 FESTAL SONG

 Good news is ours to tell!

 Let no one fail to hear!

 God gives us life; God conquers death!

 What's left for us to fear?

 Christ comes, the promised One,

 Eternal life to bring.

 Though judgment is our just reward,

 Instead Christ makes us sing!

TEXT: © by Jane Parker Huber

You have not left us to live alone in this world, but have called us to be members of your Body, the church. We thank you for all those in the past who shared their faith with us and for those in the present who help to shape our response to your love.

**We are grateful for the nurture we receive and the mission we have been given to manifest the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us.**

You have not left us without written and living testimony to your involvement in human history. We thank you for the Holy Scriptures and the insights they provide for us in our mission and ministry.

**We are grateful for the words and stories of judgment and justice, comfort and renewal, salvation and peace that come to us from the Bible and from the ongoing inspiration of your Holy Spirit.**

 HUS

 The word of God, which ne'er shall cease,

 Proclaims free pardon, grace, and peace,

 Salvation shows in Christ alone,

 The perfect will of God makes known.

 O God, in whom our trust we place,

 We thank you for your word of grace;

 Help us its precepts to obey

 Till we shall live in endless day.

For the creation itself and the nourishment we receive from its resources,

For seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain, oceans and forests,

For the wondrous way in which we are woven into the environment,

 **We give you thanks, Creator God.**

 For all the creative things we are enabled to do through the gifts and talents you have given to us,

For the good health within our bodies, minds, and spirits,

For the courage and healing that you provide when we are broken and discouraged in the midst of our earthly pilgrimage,

 **We acknowledge with thanks your leadership in our journey.**

 For the gift of time and the guidance you give for the redemptive use of our days,

 For the satisfaction and renewal that come from our labor and leisure,

 For directing us to do justice and to love mercy,

 For the chance to begin again whenever we falter and fail,

 **We are grateful, our Savior, whose faithfulness endures through all generations.**

 WIR PFLÜGEN

 We thank you then, O Father,

 For all things bright and good,

 The seedtime and the harvest,

 Our life, our health, our food;

 Help us to show thanksgiving

 For all you freely give,

 To love you in our neighbor,

 And by the way we live.

Refrain:

 All good gifts around us

 Are sent from heaven above;

 Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord

 For all his love.

Hear now, gracious God, our words of contrition that we pray in the light of your manifold blessings:

**We confess that we have failed to perceive your glory as it is revealed in creation. We have taken the gifts of this world for granted and have not stopped to marvel at what you have provided for us. Forgive us for rushing through life with reckless abandon. Forgive us for trampling upon other persons, places, and things, and for not understanding how dependent we are upon one another and the earth itself.**

**Help us, Creator God, to share the resources of this world as good and faithful stewards. Show us how to tend the land, water, and air and to prevent their pollution and destruction. Teach us the discipline of conserving and of replacing what we have used. Deliver us from exploitation. Keep us from idolizing money and material possessions. And make us compassionate in our concern for the needs of others. Amen.**

God hears our prayers, blots out our transgressions, and creates a new and right spirit within us. Go in peace and joyful service.

 ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

 Hark, the song of jubilee,

 Loud as mighty thunders' roar,

 Or the fullness of the sea

 When it breaks upon the shore:

 Alleluia! for the Lord

 God omnipotent shall reign!

 Alleluia! let the word

 Sound from city, hill, and plain.

**Anthem** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Alford and Raney

**Reading of God’s Word** Betty Sutton

Isaiah 44:6-8

 Romans 8:12-25

**Sermon The Kingdom of Heaven Is Disturbed** Dick Joyce

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**Hymn** *A Farmer In a Field* ST. THOMAS

A farmer in a field sowed good and healthy seeds.
But in the cover of the night, somebody planted weeds.

The wheat grew tall and strong, but thistles flourished, too.
The workers saw the mix of them and wondered what to do.

The farmer wisely said, "They'll grow as one today,
But when we harvest all the wheat, we'll throw the weeds away."

O Lord, we want to know why evil prospers here —
why, next to love and justice, grow such hatred, pride and fear.

God, may we humbly see the harvest still is yours;
and one day we'll be blessed to find that love is what endures.

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**Benediction** Dick Joyce

**Postlude** *We Plow the Field and Scatter* WIR PFLÜGEN

*The work of the church could not go on without your consistent, generous gifts through tithes and offerings. One of the greatest indications of our love for the Lord and His church is both our desire to give, as well as the action of giving. There is a box in the vestibule for you to place your tithes and offerings.*

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