

Bless this Mess: *Stories of Brokenness and Redemption*

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 18, 2021



Prodigals All, oil on canvas
He Qi, Chinese, (b. 1951)

Welcome to worship at Faith Presbyterian Church! We are glad that you made time to join us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubt, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you. As we begin our time together, take a few deep breaths and settle in, to make the transition from getting here to being here, and to prepare your mind and body for worship.

Faith Presbyterian Church ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich

Joys and Concerns

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude *Amazing Grace*

arr. Fred Swann
(b. 1931)

**Please rise in body or in spirit; unison parts are in bold.*

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Bill Millen

From the corners of the world, from the confusion of life, from the loneliness of our hearts,

Gather us, O God.

To feed our minds, to fire our imagination, to free our hearts,

Bring us together, O God, into your gracious company.

To love, to serve, to seek justice, to live with praise and joy,

Form us as your people as we worship!

***Hymn 401** *Here in This Place*

GATHER US IN

verses 1, 2, 4

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you sent Jesus to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from the paths you set for us and turned aside from your way, making a mess of that which has been entrusted to us. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our many faults. Help us find our way home to you. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

Assurance of Grace

Gloria 591 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

HALLE, HALLE

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Moment with Faith Kids

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and

kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

This is the word of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bless this Mess: The Prodigal

Rev. Goodrich

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

Affirmation of Faith excerpt from the PCUSA's Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

Invitation to the Offering

If you wish to contribute online, please scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to Faith's online giving site.



Offertory

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn 475** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

***Passing of the Peace**

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Cat Dodson Goodrich, *Pastor*
Dr. Samuel Springer, *Minister of Music & Organist*
Rev. Bill Millen, *Liturgist*
Ayanna Freelon, *Soloist*
Andy Fuller, *Audio/Camera Operator*
Patrick Baker, *Zoom Moderator*

Please pray for these people:

Robin Nemser who continues to have breathing issues.
Neil Nemser with severe poison ivy.
Doris Cowan for improved health as she returns home.
Ron Sperling as he has cancer treatment.
Janice William who is grieving Maceo.
Kay Ballard and Sharon Will who are grieving Kenzie.
Neal, Diane Hairston's husband who is ill.

Continued prayers:

Cathy Billings
Nan Pohl
John Reale and the Seaver-Reale family.
Ann Scheck
Faith's Homebound Members