

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024 10 AM
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
MARK 6:1-13



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

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Liturgy - Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

Communion Liturgy – Mary J. Scifres

Ushers –

NCH) New Century Hymnal - CCLI LICENSE #11164431

*Please stand if comfortably able
and respond with words in bold print

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:

PRELUDE: “He Leadeth Me” William B. Bradbury

PENNIES FOR MISSION: Hoyleton Ministries

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Inspired by Psalm 48

One: Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

Many: The earth rejoices on the holy mountain, at the heights and depths of God’s love.

We gather, we observe, we recognize, we ponder the wonders of Creator’s majesty!

God’s name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze. We remember and recount from generation to generation!

Our Guide reigns forever and ever. Praise our God!

***INVOCATION:**

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be transformed and transfixed by the

mystery of you. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"**
Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
While I am waiting yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power – all power – surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

***UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND
NEW LIFE:**
Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us. We

**confess our own forms of rebellion and
stubbornness. We seek our own way and fail to
wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight. We hold
fast to hopes and dreams that do not include your
kingdom or our neighbors. We choose comfort over
holy confrontation, doctrine over faithful disci-
ple-ship and position over spiritual power. Awaken in
us hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE:**

Power-filled beloved, the Holy One is with you and fuels your journey. God grants you power to be the church, to be faithful, and to be active agents in the kingdom. You have power to make things new in your heart, in your neighborhood, and in your community. Receive the grace to try even when your way is uncertain, to hope even when circumstances seem dim, and to love even when love does not come easily. God is with you and will be with you.

***GLORIA:**

**Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so
near.**

**As it was from the start so it shall be forever,
One God always here. (repeat twice)**

(end) One God always here. One God always here.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
(From the Message)

5 ¹⁻² Before long all the tribes of Israel approached David in Hebron and said, “Look at us—your own flesh and blood! In time past when Saul was our king, you were the one who really ran the country. Even then God said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel and you’ll be the prince.’”

³ All the leaders of Israel met with King David at Hebron, and the king made a treaty with them in the presence of God. And so they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴⁻⁵ David was thirty years old when he became king, and ruled for forty years. In Hebron he ruled Judah for seven and a half years. In Jerusalem he ruled all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

⁹⁻¹⁰ David made the fortress city his home and named it “City of David.” He developed the city from the outside terraces inward. David proceeded with a longer stride, a larger embrace since the God-of-the-Angel-Armies was with him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 48 Page 654

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

² I know a man in Christ who was caught up into the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don’t know whether it was in the body or out of the body. God knows. ³⁻⁴ I know that this man was caught up into paradise and that he heard unspeakable words that

were things no one is allowed to repeat. I don’t know whether it was in the body or apart from the body. God knows. ⁵ I’ll brag about this man, but I won’t brag about myself, except to brag about my weaknesses.

⁶ If I did want to brag, I wouldn’t make a fool of myself because I’d tell the truth. I’m holding back from bragging so that no one will give me any more credit than what anyone sees or hears about me. ⁷ I was given a thorn in my body because of the outstanding revelations I’ve received so that I wouldn’t be conceited. It’s a messenger from Satan sent to torment me so that I wouldn’t be conceited.

⁸ I pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me alone. ⁹ He said to me, “My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.” So I’ll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ’s power can rest on me. ¹⁰ Therefore, I’m all right with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations for the sake of Christ, because when I’m weak, then I’m strong.

***GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 6:1-13**

Jesus in his hometown

6 Jesus left that place and came to his hometown. His disciples followed him. ² On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard

him were surprised. “Where did this man get all this? What’s this wisdom he’s been given? What about the powerful acts accomplished through him?”³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t he Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” They were repulsed by him and fell into sin.

⁴ Jesus said to them, “Prophets are honored everywhere except in their own hometowns, among their relatives, and in their own households.”⁵ He was unable to do any miracles there, except that he placed his hands on a few sick people and healed them.⁶ He was appalled by their disbelief.

Sending out the disciples

Then Jesus traveled through the surrounding villages teaching.

⁷ He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits.⁸ He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick—no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts.⁹ He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts.¹⁰ He said, “Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place.¹¹ If a place doesn’t welcome you or listen to you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.”¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives.¹³ They cast out many demons, and they

anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.

These are the ancient words revealed to us anew.

Thanks be to God. Amen

MESSAGE: “Looking in the mirror”

When I graduated from seminary, someone asked me if I planned to go back to my home church to preach. I said “no”. They asked why not? I used the words of Jesus to explain. “Prophets are honored everywhere except in their own hometown and church.” That’s what we have today in this lesson from the Gospel of Mark. Not only was Jesus not honored. They were repulsed by Jesus.

I’d like to explore the possible reasons for this sad homecoming that Jesus received. And then I would like to reflect on those reasons and see if we have ever acted in the same manner as the villagers in Nazareth.

First of all, the people in this village remembered Jesus as a carpenter. At that time in history, the village carpenter was a very important member of the community. Not only could they make furniture and built houses, but he was a “fix-it” guy. People came to the carpenter when something broke down or didn’t work right and he could usually fix it. Now Jesus had a different vocation. Perhaps the people were thinking, “Wait! We need a carpenter; not

another rabbi who thinks he knows more about God than the teachers the village already has. Besides “We know Jesus all of his life. We were taught the same basics of Judaism as he was. Where did he come up with this new stuff. How does he know more than we do?”

It’s always shocking when a friend has a major change in their life; sometimes good changes and sometimes not so good. Movie stars become nuns. The town bully becomes a missionary. Your cousin gets a PhD in entomology and she used to be afraid of bugs. The “bad boy” of the town becomes a priest. The valedictorian who became an exotic dancer. The Homecoming queen who lost her good looks. What about good changes such as an alcoholic who is now sober; a family who includes convicts in their roles. Are they forgiven in our eyes and given a second chance? Are we jealous of the old friend who had the money and brains to go to Harvard?

In our scripture story, the attitudes of the villagers make it difficult for Jesus to heal and exorcise demons. In the Gospel of Mark it says Jesus could do none of those things. In the Gospel of Matthew this fact is “softened” a little. It says Jesus chose to not do those things.

As Mark reports it, the response to Jesus is captured in three words: astonished, offended, and disbelieved. Talk about stumbling blocks! Jesus

wanted to help his old friends by they refused to accept it. To what do the people respond with astonishment, offense, and unbelief? It was not to miracles Jesus had done in Capernaum. What astonishes Jesus’ critics and causes them to talk about Jesus’ teaching with wisdom and power. It was almost frightening to these people. Jesus was preaching something new and different. Maybe the people did not want to change their thoughts. Jesus was not just another synagogue preacher, telling people how to obey God’s law, offering God’s hope for the future, explaining from the prophets something about when the kingdom might come. Jesus was telling them, apparently on his own authority, that the kingdom **WAS** coming, then and there. His message was “**where I am, the kingdom is.**”. That’s the message for us all. Wherever Jesus is, the kingdom is.

This scene parallels what happened in Capernaum when Jesus taught with authority in the synagogue. I imagine some people were insulted. “We know all that already. You don’t have to push it down our throats.” Even good news may be received and treated as bad news.

So what do you think? Are we always kind and welcoming to old friends who have changed? Do we criticize them for their good fortune? If they have a

new message for us, do we listen? Perhaps, their way is a better way to live? Much to think about. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Summons” Video

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Gracious and ever-loving God, giver of all good, who continually pours your benefits upon us, age after age the living wait upon you and find that of your faithfulness there is no end and that your care is unfailing.

We bring before you O God, the troubles and perils of people and nations, the sighing of prisoners and captives, the sorrows of the bereaved, the necessities of strangers, the helplessness of the weak, the despondency of the weary, the failing powers of the aged. O God, draw near to each, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Strength. Amen.**THE LORD’S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: Three-fold Amen

Amen, Amen, A – men.

***INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

In 1 Corinthians 12:9, the Apostle Paul writes, “but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” Generosity does not measure the resources we have. Rather, it notes the capacity we have to give from the abundance we have received and the trust we place in God’s generosity to renew the gifts we bring. Let us give generously to meet the needs that confront our community and to demonstrate the power of our collective faithfulness.

OFFERTORY: “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nation”

H. Ernst Nichol

***DOXOLOGY:**

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation. Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen.

***HOLY COMMUNION: The Great Thanksgiving**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger: you who believe in me shall never thirst.

In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

God be with you every day.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts to the God who loves you.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the God who blesses us.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere, to give thanks to you,
Mighty God, our Comforter and Sustainer.
You made us in your image, to love and be loved.
When our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity in Egypt, made
covenant, time and again, to be our God, that we
might be your people.
In the lineage of Abraham and Sarah, David and
Bathsheba, Paul and Peter, we come now with
gratitude and praise for your mighty acts of salvation
and your generous covenant of love.
And so, with your people on earth and all the

company of heaven, we praise your name and join
their unending hymn:

NCH 790

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the
poor, to offer healing and mercy to the sick,
to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins,
and to share your love with the world.

Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, you gave birth to
the church, delivered us from slavery to sin and
death, and made with us a new covenant by water
and the Spirit. Christ commissioned us to be disciples
of healing and hope to a world in need.

As we stand at this table, you nurture us to live
this commission with your bread of life and living
water.

On the night when Jesus last ate with his disciples,
he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to
the disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body."
Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to the disciples, and said: "This is my blood of
the new covenant, which is poured out for many.
Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of

the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living gift to you and to your world.

In union with Christ’s gift of love to us and to your world, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be disciples of Christ for the world, redeemed by your love and grace.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

May we proclaim your love and your hope until Christ comes in final victory, when we will drink of the fruit of the vine and feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus the Christ, together with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN: “It is No Secret”**
The chimes of time ring out the news;
another day is through.
Someone slipped and fell. Was that someone you?
You may have longed for added strength,
your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened, for I bring hope to you.

(refrain) It is no secret what God can do.
What He’s done for others, He’ll do for you.
With arms wide open, He’ll pardon you,
It is no secret what God can do.

There is no night, for in His light
you’ll never walk alone.
Always feel at home wherever you may roam.
There is no power can conquer you
while God is on your side.
Just take Him at His promise;
don’t run away and hide.

**(refrain) It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He'll do for you.
With arms wide open, He'll pardon you,
It is no secret what God can do.**

***BENEDICTION:**

May the power of God increase to saturate you.
May the power of God ignite a new vision in you.
May the power of God inspire you to follow the way
of Jesus in the world.
God in peace and in power to love God and
neighbor.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

“Let There BE Peace on Earth”

POSTLUDE: “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

Benton Price

PRAYER LIST: