

September 19, 2021

17th Sunday after Pentecost

CONFESSING TO GOD

ANTHEM

The Church's One Foundation arr. Jay Althouse

Joe Carter, organ Kay Carter, piano

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation by water and the word.

From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord.

She is His new creation by water and the word.

From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:16-20

SERMON

"United in Mission"

Dr. Dawson Harmon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirming our Mission

* THE CALL OF THE CHURCH (Book of Order F-1.0301)

Leader: The Church is the Body of Christ

People: Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be
the body. The Church strives to demonstrate these
gifts in its life as a community in the world.

Leader: The Church is the community of faith....

People: entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of
losing its life.

Leader: The Church is the community of hope . . .

People: rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in
Christ, God is making a new creation. This new
creation is a new beginning for human life and for all
things. The Church lives in the present on the strength
of that promised new creation.

Leader: The Church is the community of love . . .

People: where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished,
and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

Leader: The Church is a community of witness . . .

People: pointing beyond itself through Word and work to the
Good News of God's transforming grace in Jesus Christ
its Lord.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

*All may stand as able

Liturgist: Jennifer Smith

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Jennifer Smith

Prelude

Almighty

arr. Cindy Berry

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Why have we gathered here?

People: We have responded to the Good News of God's love
for us in Jesus Christ.

Leader: What do you hope to do here?

People: We hope to worship God and be strengthened by
other faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Leader: With what mission will you be sent from this place?

People: To be God's servants in serving humanity, to spread
the Gospel and resist the powers of evil.

All: Let us then draw near to God, who promises to forgive
us, to fill us with the fruits of the Spirit, and to be
present with us in this world and in the world to come.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 686

God of Our Life

SANDON

INVOCATION (Unison)

Dr. Dawson Harmon

Holy and merciful God, you reach out to us long before we reach
out to you. It is by your grace through faith that we are saved.

Once saved, you then ask us to make every effort to walk in your
Light and be led by your Spirit; to obey you because we love you;
and to grow daily in Christlikeness . . . in wisdom. . . and in truth,
we come with this desire in our hearts. Descend upon this place
as you have done in the past. Make your Presence known.

Empower our efforts to be faithful. Protect us from the evil one.

Grant us hope, perseverance, wisdom, and courage as we in bold
accord celebrate our journey together. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to you as we
are. Many of us are tired from trying to do more than we can
manage. Many of us are anxious about problems which continue
to go unresolved. Many of us are worried about events beyond
our control. We often find it hard to let go. For mistakes we
cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we
need your forgiveness and ask your understanding.

(Silent prayers of Confession)

We pray for your Spirit. We pray for wisdom from above and for
the grace to receive it. We pray for recovery of purpose, for a
clear set of priorities, for fullness of life, for generous hearts, and
contented souls. In your mercy, restore us and lead us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Rejoice, for God calls into existence possibilities we
could not imagine.

People: Christ died for our sins and rose again that we might
have new life in Him.

Leader: Let us explore together what that means in the
assurance that God is able and willing to fulfill all
His promises made to us.

People: God takes us by the hand and lifts us up to abundant
life.

All: Praise God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Jennifer Smith

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

