

October 5, 2014 Week two of Four in “Welcome Home” Series, 16th SUNDAY after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today is the second Sunday in a four week series called Welcome Home in which we will reflect on God’s gracious welcome of us and the hospitality we as the Church in turn extend to others. Today’s focus is on those who have shaped us in faith and the way in which we as a family of faith create a home for faith in others.

As we continue in worship with a time for reflection, think about a person who has helped shape your faith or your understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

Prayers of the People

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that rouse us to be the church in a world where faith is met with cynicism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that motivate us to rebuild where storms have torn down, droughts have sucked dry, and waters have flooded. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that provoke us to create change where there is injustice, freedom where there is captivity, and harmony where there is violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that compel us to provide relief to those who suffer, comfort to those who mourn, protection to those who are vulnerable, and compassion to those who are scorned. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that lift us out of complacency and into our communities to share the priceless gift of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Sing a love song to us, O God, with verses that assure us of eternal life, where, together with all your saints, we will join you in a song that has no end. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e. “The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ...” - then read the text.)

FIRST READING - *The second letter to Timothy is addressed from Paul to Timothy and is known as one of the “Pastoral Epistles” for the practical advice it offers about leadership in the church. In these opening verses, Paul, who has been a spiritual mentor to Timothy, gives thanks for Timothy, who he considers to be like a son. Paul also gives thanks for the grandmother and mother of Timothy for the foundation of faith which they provided.*

2 Timothy 1:1-5

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING - *This reading from first John described how we are called to love one another as brother and sister. We love or are able to love because of what God has done. We know God's love, first and foremost, in the Son; and we know God's love because we have witnessed it in love for one another. Love comes from God, and those who love are God's children and know God.*

1 John 4:7-12, 19-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.