

Worship for 11 July 2021
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: God has accomplished all things through Christ,

ALL: So that we might live as God's own children.

One: Let us give thanks to God,

ALL: And live for the praise of God's glory.

Hymn of Invitation – "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to be your beloved children and to care for one another, yet we fail to love others and ourselves. Helpless and ashamed, we turn our hearts to you. Forgive us, and then tenderly teach us to stand strong and courageous in the fullness of your love, by the grace and mercy of Christ. Amen.

Scripture – 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29 (see reverse)

Reflection – "Celebratory Outcomes"

Prayers of the People & 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Celebration of The Lord's Table

Hymn of Thanksgiving – "I Danced in the Morning"

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead your all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and leapt up high. I am the life that will never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead your all in the dance, said he.

Announcements & Blessing

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Oben-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fattling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out the window, and saw David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the baptizer on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

One: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread ... [*Minister continues ...*] The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us give thanks together:

All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.

Adapted from the Iona Abbey Community, Scotland