

of evangelism include obedience to Christ, incorporation into his Church and responsible service in the world.

**Prayer for Spiritual Formation** *(created by Reverend Nicole Collins)*

**Leader:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

May we truly learn the nature of service

As we have been commissioned as the Priesthood of all believers

May we never become self-righteous or arrogant

In serving Your Gospel imperative

Shape our hearts as only You can

With Love, Grace, Humility and a spirit of gentleness

In Your Name we confess, reflection, repent and renew daily

*(Please observe a moment of Silence)*

**ALL: AMEN**

**BENEDICTION**

**Scattering Proclamation** *(created by Reverend Nicole Collins)*

Leader: Gracious Lord Jesus, may our faith truly move mountains!

Help us to do so as we now scatter... In the name of the Father, † Son  
& Holy Spirit

**ALL AMEN** *(Please make the sign of the Cross)*

† *Thank you for worshiping with us!* †

*Reverend Nicole Collins † Pastor & Founder*

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DISCIPLESHIP CENTER

**GATHERING WE CONFESS**

*(Composed by Reverend Nicole Collins)*

*(Please stand if able)*

**Leader:** Jesus said something poignant to His disciples that we should spend the time and reflect upon. Jesus said: <sup>35b</sup>...“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” But we must question our hearts as the Apostle James ask: <sup>13</sup>“Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.” —

*Please observe a moment of silence for reflection*

***ALL: God indeed is our helper, our redeemer and our guide as we grow to realize our faith grounded by and for Grace. All that we do and all that we say must be shaped by a prayerful humility that emboldens us to serve God and neighbor. Please help us loving and Gracious God to submit ourselves to Your will and precepts as we are Your children of Grace and promise.***

**Leader:** Gracious God of Love and Mercy continue to teach us to bear good fruit to welcome and love neighbor with all humility, gentleness and service—

***ALL: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves... but this does not mean we make this our excuse. Help teach us to be accountable, obedience and possess the heart of a servant so that we may sow peace, love, mercy and kindness to all the world.***

*Please observe a moment of silence for reflection*

Leader: Upon your confession & reflection, as a humble servant of the Living Word; I announce, in the witness of God—that you are forgiven of your transgressions. Live into this repentance through renewal. In

the Name of the Father, † Son & the Holy Spirit! Amen

*(Please make the sign of the Cross)* †

**Scripture Lessons for the Morning** *(please be seated)*

*The Grace Hub*

† Sunday Morning Worship †

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PRELUDE MUSIC**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A Reading from The Prophet Jeremiah**

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” <sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks Be to God**

### **A Reading from the Letter of James**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Thanks Be to God**

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark**

**ALL: Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

**Leader: The Word of the Lord ALL: Praise to You, O Christ  
Sermon by Pastor Nicole**

**PEACE † PRAYER CIRCLE † HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Please take this opportunity to reflect in your heart how this Means of Grace—Christ actual presence feeds and restores your soul. As St. Paul would say: Listen with your heart wide open. Then, TASTE, SEE & DELIGHT that the Lord is Good!*

**LORD’S PRAYER: Please recite what version is comfortable for you.  
(Please be seated)**

### **THE NATURE OF EVANGELISM**

*(Article 4 of the Lausanne Covenant)*

**ALL:** To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord he now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gifts of the Spirit to all who repent and believe. Our Christian presence in the world is indispensable to evangelism, and so is that kind of dialogue whose purpose is to listen sensitively in order to understand. But evangelism itself is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Savior and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to him personally and so be reconciled to God. In issuing the gospel invitation we have no liberty to conceal the cost of discipleship. Jesus still calls all who would follow him to deny themselves, take up their cross, and identify themselves with his new community. The results