Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! **People: I will sing praises to God all my life long.** Leader: Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;

People: seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

Leader: setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;

People: lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

Leader: The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;

People: but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

Leader: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

*Hymn # 773 – Heaven Shall Not Wait

- Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience, the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend: Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted; in him injustice confronts its timely end.
- Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes, the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least: Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege: to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.
- Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas, thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain: Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs, when earth has passed and we reach another shore: Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment; when we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Prayer of Illumination



Sunday, September 5th Scripture: James 2:14-17 Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Faith and Works

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Lift up your heart. **People: We lift them up to the Lord!** Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayers of the People

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

The Sharing of the Meal

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ you have loved us. Amen.

*Hymn # 769 – For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

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For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, With wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology

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

Postlude



This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call "cheap grace," while the second announces the "costly grace" of God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1987

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT 12.11.12.11

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This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

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