



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
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August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"Researchers found that greed is actually viewed more favorably in upper-class communities. 'We reason that increased resources and independence from others cause people to prioritize self-interest over others' welfare and perceive greed as positive and beneficial, which in turn gives rise to increased unethical behaviour,' the researchers concluded."

Researcher Paul Piff, a social psychologist at the University of California, Berkeley

PRELUDE

Variations on "Kum Ba Yah"

arr. John A. Behnke

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

SUMMER HYMN SING

"Lift High the Cross" (Hymn No. 826, St. 1 & 4)

REFRAIN

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. REFRAIN

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory. REFRAIN

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" (Hymn No. 353, St. 1 & 4)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we pray this day for a faith that enables us to live, work, and pray in ways that let you use us. We confess, Compassionate God, those behaviors that prevent you from leading and using us. We confess to doing what we know better

than to try. We practice individual and collective self-centeredness that insists on its own way; that ignores the guidance of others; that approaches life with a “me first” attitude; that rationalizes giving in to temptation; that trusts my power to overwhelm problems. God, help us break patterns of misbehavior. Help us break the chains of sin that bind us. Help us break cycles of selfishness and violence that you can then use us as willing partners in loving, caring and reconciling. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the Good News! All who are moved by the Spirit of God are children of God.

We are heirs of God's splendor with Jesus Christ.

Friends, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

HYMN No. 700, St. 1 *“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”* I’M GONNA LIVE
I’m gonna live so (live so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I’m gonna live so (live so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *“I’ll Walk with God”* Nicholas Brodzsky
Paul Salierno, Solo

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Judges 16:4-6, 16-20, 27-30*

HYMN No. 700, St. 2 *“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”* I’M GONNA LIVE
I’m gonna work so (work so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I’m gonna work so (work so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 23:34-35*

SERMON *“Dumbest People in the Bible - Samson”* Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”* arr. Patricia Cota
Joelle Piercy, Handbells

HYMN No. 700, St. 3 *“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”* I’M GONNA LIVE
I’m gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I’m gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me
Anywhere, Lord (my Lord,) anytime! (anytime!)

