



"catastrophe becoming painting" by Jenny Meehan

TENTH SUNDAY *after* PENTECOST

July 28, 2024 • 8:30 AM

* Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol,
and join in reading aloud text in **bold**.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers,
we gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey,
each of us is seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

Builders of bridges in fractured communities,
those who stand on either side of walls of fear,
the Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger, the alien, in our midst.

Forgive us, Faithful Heart. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:11-22

REFLECTION IN POETRY

from Christian Wiman

Home (100 poems)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the Faithful One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts to the one who has reconciled us.

We offer them as enduring witnesses to God's steadfast love.

Sing to the One who is our Strength and our Hope.

We offer glad songs to the One who is our God.

...

And when we come away from this time we call life,
when we cross to that promised place called home,
we will gather with all who have journeyed before and after us,
offering enduring witness to your hope, peace, and forgiveness,
God in Community, Holy in One.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:

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.

SENDING

Now go, to greet stranger and dear friend equally.

We will share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.

Now go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

We will tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.

Now go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

We will build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.