

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

Call to Worship

We gather to hear about God,
to hear the stories of forgiveness and fresh starts, stories of God's everlasting mercy.

We gather to feel God,
to feel a presence of comfort in troubled times, God's eternally just presence.

We gather to serve God,
to serve in a ministry that will challenge and change us, as it challenged and changed Paul.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach

**God of creation,
You made us to be in relationship with You, forgiving us as we turn from You, reconciling with us as we come to know You, and transforming us when we open ourselves to You:**

**Grant that we may be more aware of Your presence in the world,
so that we can follow You and become the community You call us to be, an example of Your love and justice in the world.**

We ask in the name of the Holy Spirit, who guides us all to a better kingdom. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
**we give thanks for the abundance in our lives,
for the resources that we have in such plentiful amounts.**

Open our hearts,
**that we may share of what we have so much,
with those who have so little.**

Bless what we give here, and what we keep for ourselves,
that it might give peace, joy, and comfort to those who need it.

Amen.

Listening

Children's Time

Reading: [1 Peter 3:13-18](#) (*The Message*)

Peter reminds his readers to persevere in doing what is good, even in the face of adversity. In this way, his readers will remain clean in spirit and conscience. How can we do the same thing today?

Questions

1. Why did the emperor trick the children?
2. Why did the emperor choose Ping over all the other children?
3. How can we be more like Ping?

Sermon

In his only recorded missionary address to non-Christians in Acts, Paul responds to accusations that he's a babbler who is teaching foreign deities. Paul's response is eloquent and surprising to the Athenians. What is it that Paul says about God, and how does he turn the Athenian expectation on its head?

Questions

1. What three claims did Paul have to satisfy in his address? How do you feel he did in the claims he made?
2. Who are the Athenians in our lives? Who needs to be told about God?
3. Why did God create us? What steps can we take to respond to that purpose?

Serving

Prayers for Community

Refrain:

Help us to grow in our relationship with You, O God.

Help us to live a new life and become the family You call us to be.

Closing Hymn

"Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)" *Hillsong Worship*

Benediction

The blessing of God the Father be with you all,

may we go out ready to live a new life with vision, a life grounded in God.

The blessing of God the Son be with you all,

may we go out ready to grow closer to God in all the pious and merciful work that we do.

The blessing of God the Spirit be with you all,

may we go out ready to change, to be the people God calls us to be, each and every day.

Amen