

Sunday, June 19th ~ Love Your Neighbor & the Stranger

Prelude, Words of Welcome, Reading from Today's Daily Texts

Liturgy Reconciliation, page 13 Moravian Book of Worship

TUNE: LANCASHIRE

*With joyfulnes and longing we look to you, O Lord; receive us in your mercy, and cheer us with your word.
Crown us with love enduring and promises of grace, and let your holy blessing remain within this place.*

The years have all been crowded with tokens of your love; and many who have sought you now worship you above. But we, O Lord, still need you, our pilgrim feet to stay, for evil often triumphs as faith to fear gives way.

Almighty God, enthroned above all, you alone are God over the nations of the earth. Even the planets, the stars, and the galaxies are placed by your hand.

Where could we go from your Spirit? Where could we flee from your presence? If we go up to the heavens, you are there; if we go down into the caves of the earth or the depths of the sea, you are there.

God of all creation, we sing praises to your name; we stand jubilant before your glory, power, and beauty.
God of certainty, God of truth, our confidence is in you and in you alone.

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people.

Our world is filled with pain and alienation.

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings. **We know of separation from parent or child, from friend or neighbor, and the emptiness of life it brings.**

We know of strangeness in new communities and in changing communities, and the longing it brings.

We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or discrimination, and the pain it brings.

We have become strangers to our relatives, and foreigners to our own families.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Let our cry for help come to you.

I am a God nearby, says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am the Lord your God. I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me. **We declare your praise, the One who called us out of darkness into your wonderful light. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to you.**

TUNE: MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul he fills, and every faithless murmur stills.
To God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever present help and stay,
Our peace, and joy, and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand, he leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!*

Gracious God, we humbly confess that we walk in the way of the indifferent who depend on their strength alone. We sit among the scornful, who deny the need for your guidance and power. Our hearts

are not satisfied with riches vulnerable to moth and rust and thief, yet we zealously store up those very treasures. Set our minds on things unseen and eternal, that our emptiness within may be filled.

We humbly confess that we fail to welcome the stranger among us. We pass by the neighbor who is hungry and thirsty, naked, sick and in prison. We sing of your healing power and your unconditional love, but we fail to make our sanctuaries true havens for the suffering and the exiled. Give us the will to be ambassadors for our Savior and faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us.

Lord, have mercy on us. **Amen.**

Without Christ we were strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He is our peace.

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, with Christ himself as the cornerstone.

Therefore, let us affirm our faith in the Triune God.

We believe in the one God who has created the land and sea and heavens and all that is in them; who established a world that was good; who gives to us the task of watchful and responsible care over it; who is certainty and truth.

We believe in the one God who in Jesus Christ assumed our humanity and knew our life as a child, youth and adult; who dined with sinners and lived with the homeless; who confronted popular opinion and power; who remained obedient in temptation and suffering; whose triumph was a servant's death and resurrection.

We believe in the one God who comes to us as comforter and advocate; who does not leave us as orphans; who brings peace and calms the troubled heart; who bestows gifts for serving, healing and showing compassion, and doing miracles; who alone is the power and the wisdom of our proclamation.

Let us in faith keep our eyes fixed on the promises of God, though we see them and greet them from a distance.

We confess that we are strangers and foreigners on the earth, a people who are seeking our true home.

We desire a better place, that is, a heavenly one. Indeed, God has prepared a city for us.

Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

TUNE: EASTHAM

*O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore; what knitting severed friendships up,
Where partings are no more! Then eyes with joy shall sparkle that brimmed with tears of late,
No orphans left without a home, nor mourners desolate.*

*Bring near your great salvation, O Lamb for sinners slain; fill up the roll of your elect,
then take your power and reign! Appear Desire of nations, your exiles long for home;
show in the heaven your promised sign; great Prince and Savior, come.*

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, Hear our Prayers

Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing" #782

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it mount of God's redeeming love.*

*Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help I've come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He's to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.*

*O, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

Meditation With Youth and Children

Scripture Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-37

Sermon *Love Your Neighbor & the Stranger*

Our Offerings *Celebrating the ways we can offer ourselves and our resources
to reflect Christ's light in our care for others*

>Financial Tithes and Offerings can be mailed into the church office at 1707 South Oneida, Green Bay 54304

>Electronic direct deposit forms can be secured from the church office- call 920.499.4433

>Online Giving can be accessed at <https://mmfa.info/west-side-moravian-church-wi-donation-form/>

Closing Hymn

"Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire" #590

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love: my words are vain as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

Benediction & Postlude

CCLI 172614

This service can be viewed after the service on our facebook page @westsidemoraviangreenbay/facebook or our website, wsmoraviangb.org

Hymns Reprinted or adapted from the 1995 *Moravian Book of Worship* with the permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in America. © 1995 IBOC. www.moravian.org; e-mail: pubs@mcnp.org. All rights reserved.