

LITURGY & SONGS – December 15, 2019

Reflection Quote:

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently." — Maya Angelou

Call to Worship:

Leader: Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will cry aloud. For He is the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come. The King who reigns is seated on the throne and the heavenly host declares, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty". <Based on Revelation 1 and 4>

All: O King of all, we join in heaven's song to say You are glorious and powerful. You are mighty and honorable. No amount of praise will ever be enough to express the greatness of Your love. But we will sing aloud for You are worthy! We worship You, O God of all.

Confession of Sin:

Leader: Jesus, there is a captivating vision of a people that cannot be numbered from every background worshipping You. I am confident this is what you strained and even suffered for. This remains a distant reality because I am unwilling to strain, as you did, to pursue people who are not like me. Fear of the unknown keeps me at bay. Comfortable with the status quo, I shrug at the daunting nature of diversity and assume it will get resolved some other day. I lack the conviction to engage. I blame the "other" for not understanding or listening to what I have left unsaid. Forgive me, God, I do not embrace the family you lived and died to create.

Assurance of Pardon:

All: The chasm was vast between a holy God and a sinful people. Our hearts are bent toward division and pride, while Your heart is inclined to go as low as is required to unify. We were unable to come before Your throne unashamed. Until you died and became sin for us. You took our place, bore the wrath we deserved. Battling our enemy, You conquered death and ascended from that empty grave. Now all who trust in Christ today, find healing in Your sacrifice. Praise be to Jesus Christ our King!

Benediction:

People of God, remember that you were at one time separated from Christ, alienated and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Amen and amen.

<Based on Ephesians 2:11-14 and Romans 15:7>

SONGS

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! Silent Night What Child Is This O Holy Night Psalm 66