



55A PENTECOST 14A

LITURGY

Held together – Father's Day

Abstract

15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.
Matthew 18:15

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55A Pentecost 14A Liturgy

Held together – Father's DayHeld together – Father's Day

Sunday, September 6, 2020 | After Pentecost | Proper 18 | Year A

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Exodus 12:1–14

Psalm Psalm 149

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Ezekiel 33:7–11

Psalm Psalm 119:33–40

New Testament Romans 13:8–14

Gospel Matthew 18:15–20¹

Jesus says that those who live in a kingdom community should watch over one another in love, gently pointing out when a brother or sister fails to live by the values Jesus teaches.

This week's resources explore: finding patterns for building community.

	Pre-Service SCE 578Where two or three Kendrick
	Greeting May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and also with us
	We Gather God told his people: honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. We pray that this day might bring honour to our fathers, healing to broken hearts and glory to you, our heavenly Father.

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>Lord; Together we come to worship, individuals gathered as one together yet is separate places We gather in the name of the Lord.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song CG 66/Wild Goose/TIS 477 Jesus calls us here to meet him Bell/Maule</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Let us Pray</i> O Lord our God, we sometimes tremble as we think of who we are and who you are. Bring us now, in this moment, to know you.</p> <p>See us as we are, and see our yearning to be more like you. May we lay aside anything that hinders our journey with you, and with our friends and neighbours. Amen.</p>
	<p>Readings</p> <p><i>Matthew 18:15–20</i> ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”²</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video</p> <p>CG 641/SIS/SCE 447/P&W/TIS 745/AOV/CH 641various kid-friendly Seek ye first Lafferty</p>

² [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>We say Sorry</p> <p>God, who is both a father and a mother to us, we thank you for your love to us from before we were born; your guidance and protection as we have grown; your wisdom and strength when we have sought to be parents to others.</p> <p>We give thanks for all that our fathers have done for us, all that they have been to us; we thank you for the good times we have shared together and for bringing us through hard times together.</p> <p>We acknowledge that there are those for whom memories of their fathers are painful, and some who have no memories at all.</p> <p>Heavenly Father, may we find in you a loving embrace t hat more than makes up for the inadequacies of our earthly fathers.</p> <p>Gracious Lord, no human father is perfect and we who are fathers today confess our failings.</p> <p>We pray that you will help us to love our children as you love us, giving generously with wisdom and forgiving freely with justice.</p> <p>In the name of your Son, our brother Jesus, we pray.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song</p> <p>CCLI song #26997/various They'll know we are Christians by our love Scholtes</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>When Someone Disagrees with You Matthew 18:15-20 One of the traditions of Father's Day is that you have to laugh at really bad jokes told by fathers. So, here's one.</p> <p>A man walks into his doctor's office and says, "Doctor, I've eaten something that disagrees with me." and a voice from the man's stomach says, "Oh no, you haven't." Oh, well. I warned you it was bad.</p> <p>I don't know whether you have encountered any food that has disagreed with you but there are definitely times in life when you have run into people who are, shall we say, disagreeable? It happens wherever there are people.</p> <p>The famous dramatist George Bernard Shaw and the legendary British leader Sir Winston Churchill had several well-known disagreements.</p> <p>Shaw once sent two tickets to Churchill to the opening night of one of his plays,</p>

with instructions for Churchill to
 “bring a friend—if you have one.”
 Churchill sent the tickets back
 because he was busy opening night.
 He said he would come on “the second night” — “if there is one.”

It seems,
 Anywhere there are human beings there are disagreements, conflict,
 arguments,
 maybe all out wars.
 It’s been true in ever generation since Cain and Abel.

In the year 1325, a rowdy bunch from Modena, Italy went to Bologna, also in Italy.
 This group of rebels from Modena caused considerable mischief and
 upheaval in Bologna. They even stole the oak bucket from the public well.

This incident incited a twelve-year war between the citizens of Modena and
 Bologna;
 thousands of men died in the fighting.
 When the war ended after more than a decade,
 Modena re-claimed ownership of the oak bucket.
 The bucket has since been housed in the bell tower of a local cathedral. ⁱ
 What a dumb reason for a war!

Years ago,
 a large statue of Christ was erected high in the Andes
 on the border between Argentina and Chile called “Christ of the
 Andes,”.

The statue symbolizes a pledge between the two countries
 that as long as the statue stands,
 there will be peace between Chile and Argentina.

Ironically, shortly after the statue was erected,
 the Chileans began to protest that they had been slighted
 because the statue has its back turned to Chile.

Fortunately, just when things looked like they were going out of hand,
 a Chilean newspaperman suggested in an editorial that said,
 it was because “The people of Argentina need more watching over than the
 Chileans.”ⁱⁱ Somehow that humorous comment calmed the populace
 and a war was averted.

Just like Dad jokes aren’t always as funny as they are to the author
 strife is rarely a laughing matter
 and can have serious consequences for those in their midst.
 Strife even happens in churches.
 Some would say, it especially happens in church.

Today’s reading from Matthew talks specifically with disagreeable people in
 church.
 “If your brother sins against you,” said Jesus,

“Go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone . . .”

You will remember that,
 earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said,
 “If you are offering your gift at the altar
 and remember that your brother has something against you,
 leave your gift there before the altar
 and go; first be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift . . .”

In other words,
 regardless of who is at fault,
 when a relationship within the body of Christ is broken,
 fix it as quickly as possible!

Jesus puts the matter even stronger in today’s reading.
 He says, “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault,
 just between the two of you.
 If they listen to you, you have won them over.
 But if they won’t listen,
 take one or two others along,
 so that ‘every matter may be verified by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church;
 and if they refuse to listen even to the church,
 treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”
 In other words, they would probably be cast out of the church.

We don’t cast folks out of church very often nowadays.
 For one thing, there aren’t that many of us going to church anyway,
 we need all we can get
 but also where would we draw the line?
 Murder? Adultery? Using crude language? Smoking? Criticizing the pastor?
 Well, maybe that last one . . . just kidding.
 According to Scripture, we are all sinners.
 If we start casting out people because of their sins,
 we may as well close the church.

So, if the answer is not exclusion, maybe the answer is to build a church
 that is so loving, so committed,
 that people grow in their commitment to Christ and to one another.
 We want a church where people are built up, not cast out.

But the question I want to ask this morning is, why was Jesus so committed to unity
 in the church?

I believe it’s because the church meets a need in society that no other organization
 meets.
 When the church really is the church
 it touches people’s lives in a way no other institution can.

There is a story about a town drunk.

Bothe he and his wife were so consumed with alcohol
they would farm out their kids to the neighbours.
When they came to the attention of some local church people,
members began bringing them food and clothing.
They invited them to worship with them.

Though the husband wasn't interested but his wife was.
Slowly she became aware of her less than desirable situation
and she recognized her need for Christ.
It took much longer for the husband to recognize his need.

One night after a heavy bout of drinking,
the husband stumbled and fell so hard that he made a terrible gash to his head.
He was found lying helpless in a gulley.
Fortunately, friends from the church surrounded him with the love of Jesus.
The gentleman hasn't touched a drop since.ⁱⁱⁱ

When the church really is the church it meets needs that no other group in society meets.

That's because the church at its best deals not with people's symptoms,
but with the causes of their problems.
Other organizations, other institutions, deal primarily with the symptoms.
The police—they deal with symptoms,
even prisons, unfortunately, deal with symptoms.
Welfare organizations deal with symptoms.
To a certain extent, even hospitals deal with symptoms.
But the church is called to get at the heart of the matter.

When a person is depressed, there is no point to tell them a joke just cheer them up,
we want to get to the heart of what is causing that depression,
what is that anger that has been bottled up
which is causing that person so much misery?

When we see an alcoholic, there's not much point arguing with them
to convince them that drinking is bad for them,
we try to find out what he or she is running from

The Jesus Christ that is in us doesn't only to deal with symptoms,
but with causes of those symptoms.
We see humanity's basic problem as being that of sin,
that of a broken relationship with God.
We recognize that humanity does not so much have a problem
as that humanity is the problem.

So where will such faith be found without the church of Jesus Christ?

We're not perfect, but we serve a God who is perfect love.
And God calls us to go out into the community
and find people who are hurting and to show them His love.

	<p>Not everyone we meet will be easy to love. Some of us are not easy to love, but this is our mission to show the love of Jesus to everyone we meet at work, at play, within our family, within our community, even within our church. "If your brother sins against you," said Jesus, "Go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone . . ."</p> <p>We are a family. We are responsible for one another. Even more importantly, we are the body of Christ in service to the world. We are called to love one another and to forgive one another just as Christ has loved and forgiven us.</p> <p>Does unity in the church matter? Does unity in a family matter? Can you think of anything that matters more?</p> <p>Amen</p>
	<p>Hymn/song SCE 195/P&W 536/SOF 203 I believe in Jesus Nelson</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p>Loving and caring God, we pray for all children whose fathers have died, for those who do not see their fathers anymore. We pray for children who are frightened of their fathers.</p> <p>Please bless and protect them and help them to know your healing love.</p> <p>Ever-living God, we pray for those who this day need our prayers: those we see around us... those we have left at home... family and friends near and far... strangers and communities we will never meet or know, but whose peril we hear of and see on our screens... those whose life is ebbing away consumed by old age, frailty, illness or neglect... those who grieve deeply for lives and loves lost... those who cause grief and chaos in society and who live seemingly with different values from ours, for them and their victims and their families... those who are forgotten, unnoticed, unloved, unmissed... Lord God, in your abundance of mercy, hear these and all our prayers.</p> <p>Amen.</p>

Lord's Prayer*A modern paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer*

Heavenly Dad,

we respect your name and everything you stand for,
and we want others to respect you too.

Please take control of the earth:

so that people learn to live life your way,
the way of heaven.

Please bring us all that we need today:

we'll worry about tomorrow when it comes.

Please forgive what we've done wrong,

in the same way we forgive what others have done to us.

Please protect us from evil,

whether we're tempted by it or attacked by it.

Because you're the King, the ruler of everything;

you and you alone deserve all the credit.

Forever, and ever, and ever, and ever,

let it be true.

Father of all, we thank you for your loving kindness and care for us.

Thank you for giving us families,

to mirror your love and to teach us to love others.

We thank you especially today for our fathers and all that they do for us.

Bless them and uphold them,

that they may be shining examples of fatherhood
and reflect your love to their children.

We ask this in the name of your Son,

our Brother and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn/song

ATW 488 Open our eyes Mangold

We are sent out

Lord God, you are the perfect Father to us all.

Bless all fathers in the world today.

Give them love, to share with their children.

Give them wisdom, to teach their children.

Give them courage, when the job seems hard.

Give them patience, when things don't go to plan.

Give them strength,

to carry their children when they are tired or frightened.

Give them love, to share with their children, and let it be enough.

Send us out from here to be a shining light for you,

a guiding light for those in confusion, aloneness, and darkness.

Amen.

May the Lord bless us

and keep us

May His face shine upon us

and be gracious to us

	May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace
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ⁱ Bruce Felton, *What Were They Thinking?* (Guilford, CT: The Globe Pequot Press, 2003), p. 47.

ⁱⁱ *Bits & Pieces*, June 25, 1992.

ⁱⁱⁱ Max Lucado, *God Is With You Every Day* (p. 34). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.