Hero Hospital VBS Part 2 – A Place for Heroes

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Today, we gather for worship, giving thanks that God is with us. We celebrate and love God, who is our Creator, + our Teacher, and our Guide. **Amen.**

We come to God to confess our sins; to share with God the ways that we hurt one another, creation, ourselves, and God.

God, our healer,

**Sometimes we hurt each other by only seeing one part of who someone is; like their disability, sickness, race, gender, or language and we forget that they are first and foremost a person, your child.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by giving in to fear, by failing to have the heroic courage to be there for each other when things are tough.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other and ourselves by losing hope and closing ourselves off from others instead of reaching out to rely on each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by judging one another instead of helping one another.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by turning our backs on science, creativity, and discovery; the things you give us to help us learn how to take care of each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other simply by forgetting to say thank you with our words and actions.**

**The ways that we hurt each other, ourselves, and creation are the ways that we hurt you God because you have created and you love everyone and everything. We are truly sorry and we ask that you accept our apology and forgive us.**

God’s love is unconditional and it lasts forever; the kingdom of God is full of God’s outrageous love. God accepts our apology and + forgives us of our sins. Now God asks us to do better by caring for and loving one another like God does. **Amen.**

Gathering Song Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

License

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

God, your kingdom is a place for heroes and you ask us to live out our faith in you by building your kingdom here on earth. Give us the courage to do the most heroic thing we can: loving one another like you love us. Give us the compassion, patience, and understanding to be present with each other in good times and in bad and especially when our neighbors are sick or hurting.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Historical Guide Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman is heroic as heroes come. In fact, there should probably be a picture of her next to the word “hero” in the dictionary. You may already know a lot about Harriet, but did you know she was a nurse and even managed a hospital? Harriet also lived with a disability throughout her life after having been struck in the head by a slavemaster at age twelve, while trying to protect a captured runaway slave. She experienced sometimes crippling headaches and possibly epilepsy and narcolepsy. Harriet risked her life, time and time again to protect others. She did this as a kid, she did this as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, she did this as a spy for the Union Army, she did this as a battlefield nurse. She did all this heroic work not for credit, but because it was right. Harriet was guided by her deep faith and trust in God’s promise to set people free. She believed completely in Jesus’ words, “God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.” After the Civil War the United States passed a law to finally pay the nurses, like Harriet, who had worked tirelessly during the war. Harriet and many others were excluded from being paid. It wasn’t until 1899, when Harriet was almost 80 that the United States Congress finally agreed to give her a pension of $20 per month. In our country today, people are working to honor Harriet by putting her portrait on every new twenty-dollar bill.

Harriet used her gifts to help build God’s kingdom!

**Thanks be to God!**

Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 12:14-26; 13:4-8a

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter Matthew 4:19-25

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

And [Jesus] said to [Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother], "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

The gospel of our Lord**. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon (preaching notes)

* Big Question: What should you do if your friend experiences an illness or disability?
* When we hear the word hero most of us think of a superhero. We think of someone who uses physical force to defeat the bad guy. But when the bad guy is a disability or illness we can’t just swoop in and save the day, that isn’t the help that is needed. What is needed is presence and love, the kind of love that 1 Corinthians talks about.
* When we have the love that 1 Corinthians talks about:
  + We do not insist that we understand exactly what someone is going through
  + We do not belittle their experience by comparing it to someone else’s
  + We patiently listen to what someone is going through
  + We believe by praying with them and showing them the love of God
  + We endure by showing up for them when they need it and giving them space when they need it
  + We show them a love that never ends by always loving them
* Love is not usually thought of as a superpower but it is what makes someone a hero.
* Love is what made Harriet Tubman a hero. She loved her black siblings and she knew that God loved them too and that God did not want enslavement for them. Harriet lived out courageous love by working to make the world a better place.
* Love is what made Jesus a hero and it is why people came to see him from all over. Jesus welcomed everyone, he met people where they were, he listened to them, he was present with them, he worked to make the world a better place for them, he loved them.
* Jesus lived in such a way that people knew that he loved them without him having to say the words.
* When we have the courage to love like 1 Corinthians talks about, like Harriet loved, like Jesus loves, then we are heroes too.

Hymn of the Day They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love CH 429

License

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,** **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,** **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,** **born of the virgin Mary,** **suffered under Pontius Pilate,** **was crucified, died, and was buried;** **he descended to the dead.** **On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,** **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,** **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,** **the holy catholic church,** **the communion of saints,** **the forgiveness of sins,** **the resurrection of the body,** **and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (Congregational Response: **“hear our prayer”**)

*(these prayers were taken from Sundays and Seasons)*

Let us come before God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you, especially Harriet Tubman. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**Amen.**

Offering

God, thank you for the gifts and talents that you give each of us. Thank you for the financial gifts that we receive in this congregation. Bless us with generous and grateful hearts and hands. Help us to use all of these gifts in service as we build, here on earth, Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

The Meal

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,

we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

God’s kingdom is a place for heroes. Join in the meal where all are welcome.

You are invited to prepare your bread. *We all eat our bread from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**”

You are invited to prepare your wine/juice. *We all drink our wine/juice from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**”

Please put your masks back on.

Blessing

Now may the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

In this meal of communion, we have been reminded once again of God’s outrageous love. God, strengthen us in body and in spirit that we might go out into the world and share your outrageous love in everything we say and do. In the name of Jesus, who shows us what true love looks like, **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705

Public Domain

Sending

Go in peace, building the kingdom of God.

**Thanks be to God.**