WORSHIP PACKET

AUGUST 2ND 2020 – DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

OPENING PRAYER - Together we Pray … "Creator God, we are reminded through your Word today that it is YOU who has made everyone YOUR Child. YOU are the one who has brought about cleanliness of heart and wholeness. Sometimes, we take the matter of who is "In" and who is "Out" into our own hands … forgive us, we pray … for the sake of YOUR Kingdom … Amen." (PL)

HYMN – *PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*

1.   Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

2.   Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

3.   Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

4.   Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

5.   Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

6.   Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;

Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY   ACTS 10:1-48

SERMON   *"FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM"*   PASTOR LORI

CONFESSION & PARDON - God of Love and Justice – Together we pray … All: God of love and justice, we long for peace within and peace without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence.
We are not willing to take the risks and make the sacrifices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen. Friends, Hear the Good News … In the Name of Jesus Christ … You are Forgiven!

HOLY COMMUNION (Your communion elements have been prayed over & consecrated by me, feel free to partake) *CLOSE WITH The LORD'S PRAYER.

*GOODIES – ANIMAL CRACKERS! Remind us our story today where God instructs Peter to go ahead and eat animals he would normally view as unclean. And, everyone is a "Kid At Heart" so ENJOY with your coffee. Have a GOOD Week! (PL)

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1) What dream/nightmare has inspired or haunted you? What is Cornelius like? (vs. 1-2) Since he is part of an occupying army, what is so unusual about his encounter with God? How does Cornelius' life challenge you?

2) As a child, what foods did you refuse to eat? What foods do you still dislike today? Look at Leviticus 11:4-7, 13-19, 29-30 – with these restrictions, how do you think Peter felt when he heard the voice ordering him to eat these animals? Why was it repeated 3xs? Verse 15 – How does this fit the story of Cornelius? 3) What principles or beliefs do you hold that limit your ability to reach out to people "different" from you? What new relationships has God given you recently? Jews regarded even people like Cornelius as "pagans" unless they submitted fully to Jewish practices (see 11:3), so what would it have meant to Cornelius for Peter to not only enter his home, but to eat & stay with him? 4) As you were growing up, were there any certain groups/people that you were told not to associate with? Would family & friends describe you as open or closed minded? If God gave you a vision about your attitude toward other people … what would he tell you?