

**16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020**

Roberta Kearney preaching, Pauline Sexton assisting

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" by Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome

Hymn 175 "Seek Ye First"

Prayer of Confession

Jesus calls us to a beautiful life of generosity and wholeness. A life in which we are free from the struggles and stress of trying to prove our "greatness". It is hard for us to see the sense of this. And so, we first turn to Jesus, to hear again his words about life in the kingdom of heaven. And then we confess together our need for help and forgiveness.

O God, you placed the child Jesus at the center of our faith to give us a new way to live. But Herod believed only he was the greatest and best. To protect Herod's "greatness" many children suffered and died.

Jesus, forgive us when we try to insist our ways are the greatest and when people are harmed by our actions.

Jesus you teach us "blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the lowly, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus, help us see that greatness in your kingdom is about blessings for all people.

Jesus you teach us to pray, Our Father ... reminding us we are indeed God's children.

Jesus, help us to be part of God's kingdom on earth by sharing bread and forgiving each other every day.

Jesus when your disciples fought about who would be the greatest in your kingdom, you placed a child in their midst, insisting once again that they change their understanding of greatness.

Jesus, forgive us when we are like the disciples. Help us to be free of the burden of greatness. Help us to keep you in the center of our lives.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Time with the Children

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 18:1-5

Sermon: "Living at the Center"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory: "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Bryan Holten

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 754 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

Benediction

Postlude: "All Creatures of Our God and King" arr. Bryan Holten

The **flowers** are given today in loving memory of Verna and George Bishop and Stan Bishop by Bill and Anne Bishop and family; in memory of Don F. Whitney by James Paccioretti; in loving memory of Gary Miller by his friend, Nancy Kitchen.

The **sympathy** of the congregation is extended to Barbara Skapura on the death of her mother Gloria Brunner on September 14. We hold this family in prayer in their time of loss.

Special thanks to Peter Christianson for serving as Lay Leader this week and to Kate Hedrick for sharing her musical gifts with us.

Liturgy notes: Today's prayer of confession is taken from Matthew 18:1-5

Announcements:

Worship in the Park! We are excited to once again gather together in Central Park, 425 Wells Road, in Dolyestown, for an outdoor worship service on Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 am. We will share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper so please bring your own Communion elements. This can be juice, water, crackers, bread or wafers – whatever is available to you. Please also bring a mask and a chair.

New Website! Our updated website is now live at www.dtownpc.org! We feel it can provide a glimpse into all the wonderful things that go on here at DPC! We invite you to check it out and explore.

DPC Connects: As a new way to form and deepen relationships with others, we invite you to visit @dtownpc on Facebook and click on our new group **DPC Connects** — an online community for members and friends of DPC that offers a place of conversation, connection, sharing of good news, and the ability to easily make plans for getting together!