

14th Sunday After Pentecost**Prelude***Bercesuse*

Gathering— The Great Potter God calls us to worship this day. Here in this community, in God’s presence, we find healing balm for our tired and weary souls. Here in our worship and in our praise, we come seeking God’s promise of renewal and hope, ready to be restored and made whole. Let us worship this day.

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

We Hear God’s Word

The People and Prophet’s Cry:
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (NRSV)

¹⁸ My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
 my heart is sick.

¹⁹ Hark, the cry of my poor people
 from far and wide in the land:

‘Is the LORD not in Zion?
 Is her King not in her?’

(‘Why have they provoked me to anger
 with their images,
 with their foreign idols?’)

²⁰ ‘The harvest is past, the summer
 is ended,
 and we are not saved.’

²¹ For the hurt of my poor people I am

hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold
 of me.

²² Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?
 Why then has the health of my poor
 people not been restored?

⁹O that my head were a spring of water,
 and my eyes a fountain of tears,
 so that I might weep day and night
 for the slain of my poor people!

God’s Response: Jeremiah 31:2-6, 10-14

² Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
 found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,
³ the LORD appeared to him from far
 away.

I have loved you with an everlasting
 love; therefore I have continued my
 faithfulness to you.

⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be
 built,

O virgin Israel!
 Again you shall take your tambourines,
 and go forth in the dance of the
 merrymakers.

⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards
 on the mountains of Samaria;
 the planters shall plant,
 and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels
 will call
 in the hill country of Ephraim:
 ‘Come, let us go up to Zion,
 to the LORD our God.’

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far
 away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will
 gather him, and will keep him as a
 shepherd a flock.’

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
 and has redeemed him from hands too
 strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the
 height of Zion,
 and they shall be radiant over the
 goodness of the LORD,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the

herd;
 their life shall become like a watered
 garden,

and they shall never languish again.
¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in
 the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be
 merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them
 gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of
 fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with
 my bounty, says the LORD.

God’s Response: Jeremiah 33:2, 6-9

²Thus says the LORD who made the
 earth, the LORD who formed it to
 establish it—the LORD is his name: ⁶I am
 going to bring it recovery and healing; I
 will heal them and reveal to them
 abundance of prosperity and security. ⁷I
 will restore the fortunes of Judah and the
 fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as
 they were at first. ⁸I will cleanse them
 from all the guilt of their sin against me,
 and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin
 and rebellion against me. ⁹And this
 city shall be to me a name of joy, a
 praise and a glory before all the nations
 of the earth who shall hear of all the
 good that I do for them; they shall fear
 and tremble because of all the good and
 all the prosperity I provide for it.

Reflection Song

Change My Heart, O God, #373

Meditation

Jars of Clay: Broken Vessels

Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead, #631

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— God's love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all.+

Called to Serve—Council 2023/2024

September Benevolence—Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at
www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

We Give Thanks— Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice. Amen.+

Hymn

How Can I Keep From Singing? #424

Benediction—As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received be the balm that you gladly share with others. Go forth in the wholeness of God's steadfast love. Amen.+

Postlude

Joyous Postlude