

11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW 25 SUNDAY SUNDAY AFTER LOVING DAY SUNDAY BEFORE JUNETEENTH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRELUDE Fairest Lord Jesus John Innes

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

3 Secrets to Living a Life Grounded in Gratitude Secret #1

In order to be a thankful person, do not focus on the things you don't have. Focus on the things you do have.

Secret #2

Do not focus on your present circumstances. Focus on the presence of Almighty God.

Secret #3

If you would be a person with a thankful heart, focus on how you can serve other people, not on how they can serve you.

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*Indicates where all who are able may stand

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ Matthew 5:3-12

Leader: Jesus says:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

People: And blessed is the church that serves with the love of God

to eradicate systemic poverty.

Leader: Jesus says:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

People: And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ

to build congregational vitality.

Leader: Jesus says:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you

and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

People: And blessed is the church that seeks by the power of the Spirit

to dismantle structural racism.

St. Denio

Leader: Blessed are you, O holy, triune God, **People:** *and blessed is your holy realm forever*.

All: Let us worship God!

* HYMN Whatever You Do
A hymn based on Matthew 25

"Whatever you do to the least ones of these I tell you in truth that you do unto me!" Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew That when we serve others, we also serve you.

When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end When those long-forgotten cry out for a friend, When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?" We hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.

In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise We see you in people whom others despise. At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.

When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands And offer our hearts there, and offer our hands We notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace: We see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.

"Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear That when we serve others, we're serving you here. And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

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* Prayer of the Day (unison)

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit, come and transform your church to be a living sign of your love for the world — where the poor are filled with good things, the dividing walls are broken down, and the dead are raised to new life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Call to Confession

Matthew provides a powerful vision of Christ as the judge who will sit on the throne of glory, and separate the people one from another, as sheep from goats. Such a stark image moves us directly to confession — for we have all fallen short of God's glory. Let us confess our sin in humility and faith.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: O Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty?

All: O Lord, we did not see — we passed by, we changed the channel; we closed the newspaper rather than be confronted with your suffering self.

Leader: O Lord, when did we welcome you as a stranger?

All: O Lord, we did not welcome you. We looked through the stranger and judged him to be too different from ourselves; we judged her unworthy of our precious time and attention.

Leader: O Lord, when did we tend to your sickness or visit you in prison?

All: O Lord, we did not tend to you, we did not visit you. We have worshiped the God of glory but neglected the God who walked among the least of these. Forgive us, O God. Set us free from our sin; strengthen us in our weakness; open our eyes to our own frailty and help us to see your face in the wounded places of this world. Lord, we ask for you to forgive us and to mold us into living lives of gratitude that honor you for your gracious sovereignty. Amen.

Let us pause briefly to confess our personal sins.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When we like sheep have gone astray, wandered into dangerous territory, and become lost, Jesus searches us out. He judges our willfulness, forgives our sin, and carries us to safety by way of his cross. He is a just judge and a caring shepherd, rescuing us and leading us in a right path toward home. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us greet one another with signs of forgiveness and peace.

(You are invited to share words and signs of God's peace, welcome, and forgiveness.)

* Doxology

Glory Be to the Father (#581)

Gloria Patri

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

GOD'S PROPHETIC WORD ~ Ezekiel 34:17-22

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND SPECIAL THANK YOU

* HYMN When Did We See You Hungry, Lord? Maryton
The congregation will recognize the tune as 8.8.8.8

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

(Choir): When did we see you hungry, Lord? (One voice): "I work two jobs so we can eat...

I search for food we can afford...
I am your neighbor down the street!"

(Congregation): When did we see you thirsty, Lord? (One voice): "I carry water miles each day...

I long for water, close and pure...
I am your neighbor far away!"

(Congregation): When were you still a stranger, Lord?

(One voice): "I moved to your community...

I wait your hand at your church door...
I am each stranger that you see!"

(All): We see the child whose shoes are worn...

We see the man in hospice care...
We see the prisoner many scorn...
A voice cries out; Will we be there?
Jesus, your presence here is real;
You came a servant on your knees.
May we, your church, now humbly kneel
And serve you in the "least of these."

GOD'S CREATIVE WORD ~ 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

GOSPEL READING ~ Matthew 25:31-46

GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORD ~ Mark 3:20-35

RESPONSE TO THE READING ~ Excerpts from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

ANTHEM A Voice Was Heard in Ramah
Central's Summer Choir

Llangloffan

A voice was heard in Ramah that could not be consoled, as Rachel wept for children she could no longer hold. For Herod ruled the nation, yet feared the Infant King. How great the devastation that fear and anger bring!

Whenever there is weeping, the whole world suffers, too. Yet, Jesus, as we serve them, we're also serving you. So may we not ignore them, nor turn our eyes away, but help us labor for them to bring a better day.

O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and grace. May we be brave to practice your peace in every place to love each fear-filled nation, to serve each troubled street, how great the celebration when peace and justice meet!



Rev. Bruce Boak

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offertory Offertory on Salvationist Tom Birchwood

* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

* Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Jesus, you will judge us according to your high standard of love and compassion, kindness, and generosity. And as your followers, we choose to be faithful in action and in spirit, sharing what we have been given. Help us to fulfill our desire and commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and to honor his loving sacrifice with our offerings and our lives. Amen.

INTIMATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 GO FORTH TO SERVE GOD

* HYMN Jesus. Be With Us Matthew 25

This hymn is attached to our bulletin today.

The choir will sing the refrain and then the verses.

The congregation is invited to sing all the refrains after the first one.

* CHARGE I Corinthians 16:33; II Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:10; I Thessalonians 5:13-22; I Peter 2:17

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "Old Hundredth"

arr. Wilbur Held

Silent Prayer: As the postlude is played, you are invited silently to reflect on God's word to you and to pray using the music you hear or perhaps using the words of this prayer:

In the light of your new day, Lord Jesus, I see you there — always on the path in front of me. Let me follow with integrity where you will lead. Give me the wisdom to know the difference between what is false and what is true, between what is your way for me and what is the detour I selfishly want for myself. Teach me to love those I happen to encounter, just as individually as you have loved me. Amen.

+ + +

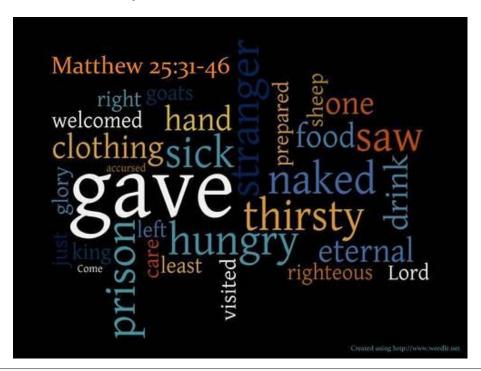
WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor Rev. Bruce G. Boak Director of Music A. David Hurd

Lector TBD

Ushers Sally Fox, Joan Henchen, Kathy Collins

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Glenna Getz Napier and Nancy Getz by the Geiser-Getz family.



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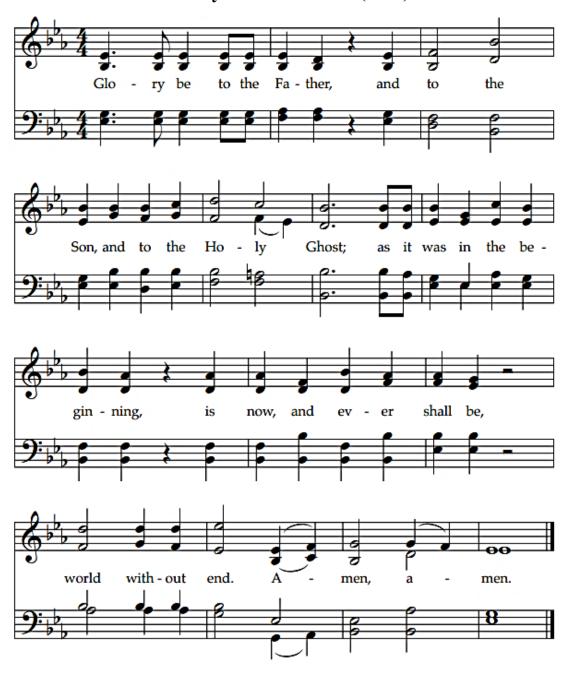
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Worshiping with thanks +++ Serving with love

Glory Be to the Father (#581)



Jesus Be With Us

