



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Sixteenth Sunday After
Pentecost
September 25, 2022*

Thoughts of Preparation

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12.28-31

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The Heavens Are Telling”
(Dobin Park - Michael Sullivan)

(Haydn)

Tower Bell

*Responsive Call to Worship

It’s a simple choice, really, one that should be easy. Do we create need –

Building our lives around a void that we feed and feed, but is never satisfied;

Storing more than we will ever use, to silence our fear, while ignoring the cries of those we have left empty? OR...

Do we create plenty – finding satisfaction in enough, finding joy in what can’t be owned and life in what is not for sale;

Seeking to share life and joy and food and wealth, so that these blessings are multiplied, and celebrated.

As we gather to worship, teach us Jesus, in our homes and families, our communities and neighborhoods, our countries and continents, to always make the simple choice to create plenty wherever and however we may. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

How did it happen, God? How did we come to believe in scarcity?

In “not enough to go around;” in “you gotta look after yourself”?

How did we miss the plenty bursting out around us?

How did we fall for the deception that what we can grasp in our hands would ever be enough? How did we grow so blind and so foolish, that we would allow so much beauty and life, joy and laughter, sharing and love, to pass us by unnoticed? How poor we have become, and how poor we have made others, simply because we forgot your infinite, overflowing abundance; because we allowed ourselves to think that sharing and giving leaves us with less; because we nurtured appetites that are never satisfied unless they have far more than is needed, thinking our gluttony would silence our fear. Forgive us, and teach us about your generosity again; remind us that you are able and willing to do far more than we can imagine; and open our eyes to the plenty we enjoy, the plenty we can share, and all the plentiful goodness in our world that cannot be owned, but can be enjoyed by all. Amen.

[Silence is kept]

***Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

For God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence; God will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; God’s faithfulness is a shield and defense.

You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson – Psalm 146 [Good News Translation]

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, my soul!

I will praise him as long as I live; I will sing to my God all my life.

Don't put your trust in human leaders; no human being can save you.

When they die, they return to the dust; on that day all their plans come to an end.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob to help them and who depend on the Lord their God, the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea, and all that is in them.

He always keeps his promises; he judges in favor of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind. He lifts those who have fallen; he loves his righteous people. He protects the strangers who live in our land; he helps widows and orphans, but takes the wicked to their ruin.

The Lord is king forever. Your God, O Zion, will reign for all time. Praise the Lord

Gathering Together in Prayer

Prayer Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer

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 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

In a dramatic parable, Jesus contrasts the consequence of wealth that is not shared with the plight, and salvation of the poor. There is no question, in the light of this, that God is “on the side” of the poor, that God calls us to put our trust in God, and that wealth is to be shared and distributed equitably. Let us trust our God, and bring our offerings.

Offertory

“A Jubilant Song”

(Alan Pote)

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Rejoice and sing, and let the earth be glad,
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.
Sing alleluia to the Lord, Alleluia!
Tell of His salvation from day to day.
Shout His marvelous works among the people,
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born,
From age to age You are God, and we pray for the coming of Your kingdom.
We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives.

Scripture Lesson – Luke 16:(13-17) 19-31 [Common English Bible]

No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Pharisees, who were money-lovers, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves before other people, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued by people is deeply offensive to God. Until John, there was only the Law and the Prophets. Since then, the good news of God’s kingdom is preached, and everyone is urged to enter it. It’s easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest stroke of a pen in the Law to drop out. Any man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and a man who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I’m suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

Sermon

Abraham’s Reply
Pastor Barry Bordenkircher

***Hymn #93**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”
(see last page)

***Responsive Benediction**

As we leave this place, may our eyes be opened to those who lie at our gates.

With the love of Christ within us, may we see the hungry and the hurting, the abused and the forgotten.

And may we seek to share the blessings we have been given.

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, may we go out and live the Kin-dom. Amen.

Postlude

“Thine Is The Glory” (Albin Whitworth)

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

Worship Notes

All the opening liturgy is from the worship and liturgy site Sacredise, by Rev. John Van de Laar (<https://sacredise.com/proper-21c/>). The Offertory Dedication and Benediction are from The UMC Discipleship Ministries worship page "Gulf is Crossed" (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/having-words-with-jesus/sixteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/sixteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-offertory-prayer>).

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.

Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-)
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