



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

October 11, 2020 @ 9:45am*
In-person worship
broadcast live from our sanctuary

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Gathering Music – “Dollar Tree Man”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR’S WELCOME

Prelude – “For Communion”

[MUSIC: Dennis Eliot, ©2010, Lorenz Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

DEACON’S GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP --

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, eds. ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 98]

We praise God for all we have received. Seasons turn but God’s love is changeless. Maple leaves dancing, crisp breezes blowing, the good news stories of Jesus’ sojourn in Galilee, and the restless winds of the Spirit rushing through our lives – all these assure us of God’s faithful presence.

OPENING SONG – “I Love to Tell the Story”

[WORDS: Katherine Hankey & MUSIC: William G. Fischer, © Public Domain.]

- I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know ‘tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
Refrain: I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*
- I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.
Refrain*
- I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And, when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
‘Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
Refrain*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, eds. ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 120]

Loving and compassionate Creator God of all, you call to us as your children and you urge us to seek peace and pursue it. Embolden us we pray that we might recognize your peace amid the confusion of our lives, and be delivered from our worry and our pain. This we pray through Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Morning Message

I Love to Tell the Story

Matthew 7:24-29

Rev. Ruth

Musical Meditation – “Kyrie Eleison”

[Russian Orthodox Liturgy; ©Public Domain]

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Tone Chimes Anthem – “Praise to You, O God of Mercy”

[MUSIC: Marty Haugen, ©1990 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

*Doxology *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.”*

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CLOSING SONG -- “Jesus Calls Us”

[WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander & MUSIC: William H. Jude; © Public Domain]

1. *Jesus calls us o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, “Christian, follow me!”*
2. *As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake.
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.*
3. *Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more!”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[adapted from The United Methodist Hymnal, ©1990, The United Methodist Publishing House, p. 869]

Bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, this day and forever more. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Postlude – “Belgian March”

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Points for Reflection

Welcome to my Fall Sermon Series on hymns and how they inform and deepen our faith. Each week, you are invited to read through the week's focus scripture and reflect on some questions intended to guide your thoughts on that text. Then, you will be invited to consider how the biblical text connects with the hymn's verses. This week's text: Matthew 7:24-29. (see below)

- This story comes at the very end of what is called the Sermon on the Mount, a time when Jesus preached and taught a large crowd gathered on a hillside. What is the analogy Jesus uses to explain why all his teachings are so important to anyone wanting to know more of God?
- The story ends with an acknowledgement that Jesus taught “as one having authority and not as their scribes.” What does this mean? What is the source of Jesus' authority?
- What problem is identified in this story? How is it resolved?
- Which line of the hymn do you think captures the essence of this biblical text?

If you would like a copy of my sermon for this week, kindly contact me or Carol in the office and we will send you a copy with next week's Weekly Update.

Matthew 7:24-29

‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!’

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.