

Sunday, June 13, 2021

9:30 am Service



Our Vision:

Disciples Making Disciples

Our Mission:

Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

Theme of the Year

Come Follow Me and Come Learn From Me

WORSHIP VERSE

*Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness. ~ Psalm 115:1*

WORSHIP QUOTE

To worship God In truth is to recognize Him for being who he is,
and to recognize ourselves for what we are.

~ Brother Lawrence

PRESERVICE THOUGHTS

**Disciples learn paths of blessedness, rejoicing that being
'poor in spirit' does not exclude one from a place in the kingdom
of God.**

This week begins a series within a series: The beatitudes. They
are a well-known section of Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*,
starting with *blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven*.

God's desire is that any and all people experience the kingdom
of heaven, not just some 'spiritually elite' class – as if there were
the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. Spiritually poor folk are as
welcome as any others, evidenced by the healings and other
miracles performed for the common folk in the chapter directly
preceding Jesus' sermon. In fact, Jesus blessed the poor by
starting His ministry among them. That is key to understanding
this teaching.

Matthew 4 is where Jesus begins His public ministry, sharing
His message, "*repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near*" (4:17).
That leads to this. Right away we see that the kingdom is not
just near us, but is available to us – all of us, any of us. Blessed
we are, even if we are 'poor in spirit'. The kingdom is ours too!
This is not to say that the 'spiritually rich' are not also able to
receive the kingdom. Surely God wants them too, right!? Rather
Jesus is correcting a societal misperception that spiritually elite
people are somehow more blessed – more superior – in the
eyes of God.

PRESERVICE PRAYER

Lord God, I am grateful this morning that I am welcome in Your presence, regardless of my spiritual condition. Some days I feel like I have faith figured out. Other days I wonder if I have anything figured out at all. I rejoice that my salvation is not dependent upon my abilities but rather Your ability to forgive me in the name of Jesus. Thank You in the name of Jesus my Lord. Amen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC “Above All”

Above all powers, above all kings,
above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
there’s no way to measure what You’re worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me above all.

“Great Are You Lord”

You give life, You are love,
You bring light to the darkness, You give hope,
You restore every heart that is broken.
And great are You Lord.

Chorus

*It’s Your breath in our lungs
so we pour out our praise,
we pour out our praise
it’s Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to You only.*

Verse, Chorus 2X, Instrumental

And all the earth will shout Your praise,
our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord. *Repeat 2X, Chorus 2X*

“Father, I Adore You”

Father, I adore You, lay my life before You,
how I love You.

Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You,
how I love You.

Spirit, I adore You, lay my life before You,
how I love You.

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 119:57-64

You are my portion, LORD;
I have promised to obey your words.
I have sought your face with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
I have considered my ways
and have turned my steps to your statutes.
I will hasten and not delay
to obey your commands.
Though the wicked bind me with ropes,
I will not forget your law.
At midnight I rise to give you thanks
for your righteous laws.
I am a friend to all who fear you,
to all who follow your precepts.
The earth is filled with your love, LORD;
teach me your decrees.

“Just As I Am”

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve.
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

WELCOME and SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
(Psalm 118:24)

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

INVOCATION

Pastor: We come in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. May we worship in spirit and in truth as the Father seeks.

OPENING SONG *“Here I Am to Worship”*

Verse 1

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely,
altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

Verse 2

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above,
humbly You came to the Earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor. *Chorus*

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross. *Chorus*

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE *"I Give My All"*

I give my heart to You, Lord.
I give my soul to You, Lord.
I give my mind and I give my all to You, oh Lord.
I give my hands to You, Lord.
I give my strength to You, Lord.
I give my life and I give my all to You, oh Lord.

Chorus

*For You alone are worthy of all I am,
for You have given me it all,
and the least I can do is give it back to You.*

Verse, Chorus

Ending

I give my heart to You, Lord.
I give my soul to You, Lord.
I give my mind and I give my all to You, oh Lord.

MOMENT OF JOY

Pastor: My friends, rejoice that in Christ you are Father God's beloved children, rescued and redeemed.

People: Renewed, cleansed and precious in His sight.

Pastor: Having received God's grace through forgiveness, let's also receive His grace to empower us for living godly lives to His glory in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Pastor: Father God, I am not sure that any of us know how to measure another's spiritual condition. I rejoice that You don't use the measure of one's spiritual condition to determine qualification to enter Your kingdom. We are all sinners and all in need of a savior, including Pharisees of the highest rank and tax collectors of the lowest rank. Regardless of how we might be "ranked," let us be grateful that You have called us Your own.

People: I'm grateful in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CHILDREN RELEASE TO JAM SESSION

CALL TO LISTEN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

657, v 4

God’s Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Where they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.

No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:1-6

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

READING FROM JESUS' SERMON Matthew 5:3

Pastor: God's Word from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

People: Holy Spirit, remind us of what Jesus taught.

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: May we be hearers and doers of the Word.

COME FOLLOW ME: DISCIPLESHIP POINT

Pastor: *Command those who are rich in this present world not be arrogant not to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

1 Timothy 6:17

Rich or poor, spiritually or even financially, the real blessing is to be in Christ – to put our hope in God. Remember that in Jesus' day, many equated financial success with spiritual blessing. All the more reason to hear Jesus' quote from Isaiah 61:1: *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

The blessing, or good news in Isaiah 61, reached out to rich and poor alike. Neither is excluded. Some poor financially might self-exclude due to a mistaken notion that they are already 'cursed' with poverty. But the financially well-off have problems of their own (See James 5:1-6 as well as 1 Tim. 6:17 above). Both need Jesus; both need to put hope in Jesus.

DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER

Pastor: Join me in our prayer:

People: Father God, whether I'm considered rich or poor financially, I rejoice that You are rich toward me. I want to be rich toward You in my financial gifts, in my gifts of energy and of time. Especially I want to be rich in giving my heart by keeping You first, above all things, and in the right place. Thank You for providing everything I need, starting with and ending with Jesus, who authors and perfects my faith. Amen.

MESSAGE

Dr. Peter Meier

PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST and OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "More Precious Than Silver"

Lord, You are more precious than silver,
Lord, You are more costly than gold;
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with You. *Repeat*

APOSTLES' CREED

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**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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: (after each petition) Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has
taught us:

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
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
[*Psalm 136*]
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all
times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise
You for Jesus, Your only-begotten son, by whose
sacrifice and authority we are welcome into Your
presence. Accept our thanksgiving by our presence
and participation in this holy sacrament.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

DISTRIBUTION SONG *"Come to the Table"*

Verse

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread;
All who are hungry and thirsty,
come and your souls will be fed.

Chorus

Come at the Lord's invitation,
receive from His nail scarred hand;
Eat of the bread of salvation,
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Repeat Verse, Chorus

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

HOPE PRAYER BOX(ES)

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (taken from Scripture)

Pastor: Let's remind ourselves who we are in Christ Jesus:

- **In Christ, I become a neighbor who loves at all times.**
- **In Christ, I am loved perfectly and empowered to love perfectly – totally, completely: Heart and soul, mind and body.**
- **In Christ, I am blessed to be part of God's kingdom even though I may be poor in spirit.**

BENEDICTION FOR THE WEEK Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG "When I Think About the Lord"

When I think about the Lord,
how He saved me, how He raised me,
how He filled me with the Holy Ghost,
how He healed me to the uttermost.
When I think about the Lord,
how He picked me up and turned me around,
how He set my feet on solid ground.

Chorus

*And it makes me want to shout.
Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!*

*Lord, You're worthy of all the glory
and all the honor and all the praise.
It makes me want to shout.
Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!
Lord, You're worthy of all the glory
and all the honor and all the praise.*

Verse, Chorus

Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!
Lord, You're worthy of all the glory
and all the honor and all the praise.
Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!
Lord, You're worthy of all the glory
and all the honor and all the praise.

And all the praise, and all the praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Father's Day Lunch after church, June 20
- Congregational Meeting following the service on Sunday, June 27
- Where's Flat Jesus?

EXIT INVOCATION

Pastor: We are a discipleship-oriented church.
As disciples of Jesus, let's follow in His path of loving
and serving.

People: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Amen!

Rev. Paul vonWerder, Pastor
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