
~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

5th Ave. United Methodist Church - "Earn, Save, Give" Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP IN A TIME OF CRISIS

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. Let us begin with being a disciple—a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be his disciples.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: (UNISON)**

Our God and our Deliverer, as you protected the Israelites in their times of trials, brought them out of Egypt and led them through the wilderness, so you have guided and protected us in our time of trials, anxiety, and uncertainty. In our bringing of our offering today, we remember that in the first Passover, it was the act of an offering that identified households your people, protected by you. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for your care for us, in hope for your continued presence, and as a sign of our desire to follow. In our Savior's name, we pray. Amen. (Exodus 12:1-14)

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Here I Am, Lord" **UMH 593**

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

People: You, whom I love, rejoice in my bounty. Blossom like a well-watered garden. Go forth that the world may know the Merciful God you serve; that the world may sorrow no more; that justice and peace shall rain down and overflow our hearts to serve you and others.

Pastor: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness. (Psalm 89:14-18 NIV)

POSTLUDE:



5th AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ September 6, 2020

God is faithful in the exile –



BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE EXILED!

Bro. Frank Adkins, Liturgist

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: Dear Lord, we enter into worship of You this morning, pausing to be still. We pay attention to the rhythm of our breathing and give thanks for it as a gift from You. In the midst of our busyness and distraction, we re-center our scattered senses upon Your presence.

CENTERING MUSIC:

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: We've been in exile.

P: We've allowed ourselves to be tempted by the idols of things and power.

L: We've found it isn't what we thought. Shopping and eating therapy and yearning for a soda pop does nothing to build up our world.

P: They are all fizz and sugar, quenching only temporarily.

L: We're left with the same emptiness.

P: We're left without the spirit words of God. We're alone in harshness, unkindness, and brokenness.

L: Acknowledging our idolatry and mistakes, we turn back to the living water. We turn back to the love that flows forward bringing justice and hope to all humanity.

P: The word that comes from God's mouth does not return empty. God's word does as God intends.

L: Always.

All: Always. Amen.

***PRAYER: (UNISON)**

Dear Lord, help us to hold close to you. We confess that we are sometimes afraid and feel overwhelmed, instead of putting our trust in You. We confess that we are sometimes defiant, seeking to make sure our rights and comfort come before the rights and comfort of others. We confess that we are sometimes impatient, lacking in grace. We confess that we find ourselves seeking escape from this world, rather

than facing it with You. We confess that we are sometimes selfish and stingy, rather than generous and willing to share. Lord, help us to be seekers of Your heart in the midst of our uncertain lives. Help us to choose love and forgiveness and humility; even when we don't want to. Come alongside of those who are suffering, who grieve, who are hopeless, who are afraid. Take our hands, and lead us to Your light. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

~WE PROCLAIM~

Jeremiah 29:1; Jeremiah 4:14 (NLT)

All: Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. O Jerusalem, cleanse your heart that you may be saved. How long will you harbor your evil thoughts?

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Praise to the Living Word.**

SERMON: "BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE EXILED!" Pastor Clarissa

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Loving and generous God, on this the first Sunday of our new church year, we are aware that so many people are still unable to gather in a church or other faith communities to worship you. We know you hear our prayers from wherever we are, but for many our desire is to gather together for mutual support and to praise your name. Hear the prayers of our hearts as we long for a better and more loving world. Hear the prayers of our minds as we try to find new ways to worship you. Hear the prayer of our souls as we long to draw closer to you. On this day, we thank you once again for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. How he modelled a way for us to live, and how he showed us that there is nothing in earth or heaven that can separate us from your love. Forgive us Lord in the times when we doubt you. Give us strength when we feel weak. Hold us close, until the day finally comes when we might all gather as one to praise your name. **Amen.**

~**HOLY COMMUNION – The Liturgy of the Holy Sacrament**~

The Liturgy of the Holy Sacrament

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **All: and also, with you.**

Dear Lord, we confess that we fall short of your calling on our lives. We don't love You as You love us, and we don't love each other as we ought. Forgive us Lord, and teach us by Your Spirit to love.

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from their corners of isolation and loneliness into your beloved kingdom.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people as we celebrate this memorial of our salvation. May this holy sacrament of your love unite us more closely to you and to each other.

As we take these elements of communion this morning; the bread that reminds us of your broken body, and the cup that reminds us of your shed blood, may your Spirit minister to us and give assurance that You gave yourself freely to save all of humanity who acknowledge you as Lord and give their lives to You.

May this be true in each of us Lord. And may we live it more and more as we are changed by your Holy Spirit that lives in us, no matter what the cost. We take these elements with gratitude and humility.

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

(after this prayer, eat the bread and drink the cup)

God of power and love, by your Holy Spirit, draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom; confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR LITTLE PEOPLE~

Theme: God has a plan for us.

Object: An empty box

Scripture: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Good morning! Let me show you all what I have today. What is it? It's an empty box! What can you do with an empty box? Well, we can stand it up on its side and pretend that it is a refrigerator! But wait. If we really use it for that, then all the food we put in will begin to spoil.

OK, we can lay it flat, climb in it and use it for a car! But wait. We're too big to fit in the box. We'll crush it! Besides, it has no wheels, we wouldn't get very far. I know, let's use it for a hat! But wait, the box is too big for our head, and it really isn't very stylish. Hmm, maybe this box just doesn't have a purpose. But this box has a purpose! It is best used when it is used as it was designed! You can put things in the box and store things in it! That is what this box was made for! It is only really of value to us if we can use it for what it was designed for!

This box is a lot like you and me, Young People. God says in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." God has a plan for our lives. We might try to live our lives the way we want to, but we will only really be of great value to anyone when we are doing what God has planned for us. He has a very important plan for each of us, and God wants us to find it and fulfill it--all with His help, of course! When we discover what God's plans are for us, we find great joy in being what God made us to be. As a matter of fact, we'll find a lot of satisfaction in doing things we never dreamed of.

Let's pray: Father, we thank you that you have a plan for our lives. Help us to discover those plans and to allow you to complete those plans. We want to be useful to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Psalms 23

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      A P N           K W G
    X D X E P       L L E W D
  O K K S W A       E F P D R R
U H T A E D T T   W R S A R E E L
U D O R I G H T E O U S N E S S I
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Z J L Y E L L A V A S N I P O O E
  I I H N I B F B H A D N E R H
    O L E T A O L S P O T H E
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    J W A T E R F J G E G
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anoint	Lord	staff
comfort	mercy	still
death	oil	tab
dwelt	pasture	vall
enemies	path	wal
evil	restore	
forever	righteousness	
goodness	rod	
house	shadow	
lead	Shepherd	



BABYLON	FORGIVE	ISRAEL	JUDAH	PROMISE
EXILE	HOPE	JEREMIAH	OBEY	SEVENTY