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

~STEWARDSHIP IN A TIME OF CRISIS~

Stewards of Vocation - Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life—the Christian way of life—of which stewardship is part. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, **BY NAME**. Each one of us—clergy, lay person; married, single; adult, child—has a personal vocation (calling). God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge, then, is to understand your role—your vocation—and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship.

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: (UNISON)

Creating and eternal God, whose grace is sufficient for us and whose power is made perfect in weakness, in our weakness and insufficiency, we offer our lives and the gifts of our living for the work of your mustard seed kingdom. Holy Wisdom, we want to walk the path of generosity but something holds us back. We are fearful; we don’t know how much money we will need how much money we can spare. You invite us to faithful living. Guided by your Spirit, confident in your voice showing us the way, we give these gifts faithfully, joyfully, in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN:

“Amen, Amen”

TFWS 2072

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Go now, and wherever people will hear you, proclaim the life-changing love of God. Do not fear your weakness, for when you are weakest, Christ’s strength is known. Travel lightly, live simply, and honor those who welcome the gospel. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Pastor: Oh, beloved children of an abundantly gracious God, you are a baptized people, a community of hope, the new race dedicated to doing the unlikely deeds of grace, and sometimes even taking on the impossible. Thanks be to Christ, whose power is made perfect in human weakness. And may God be your protection and safe haven; May the power of Christ Jesus dwell in you; and may the Holy Spirit be your guide forever.

POSTLUDE:

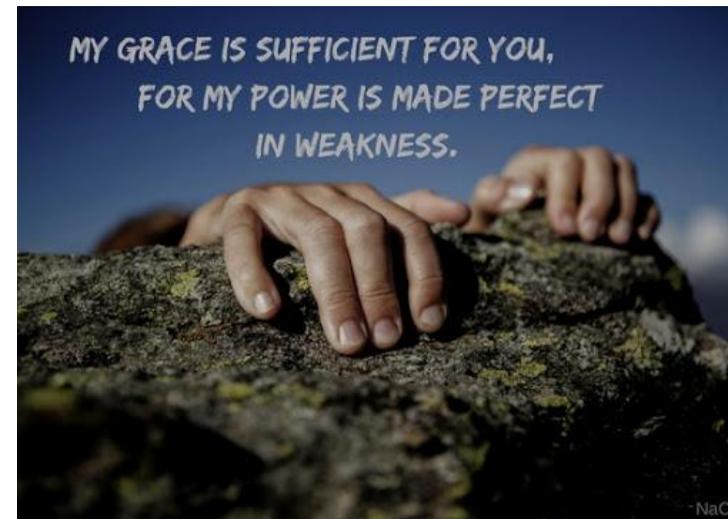


5th AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ September 27, 2020



POWER

&

WEAKNESS

are contradictory terms. However, Paul, in this writing in the book of 2 Corinthians, highlights a profound truth about how our weaknesses can turn into power.

It would be so much more comfortable if God would keep us in our “strength zone,” wouldn’t it? But God keeps thrusting us into our “weakness zone” because it is only in our weakness that He is made strong. God directly tells Paul (and you and me) that His grace covers **ALL** of our weaknesses. Take heart! Be of good cheer! Consider it all joy! Such times are when you will experience firsthand that greater is **He** who is in us than **He** who is in the world. (John 6:33)

, Liturgist

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE:

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: Beloved people of God, these times are hard and at times the bitter pill of frustration seems overwhelming. More than ever, we earnestly desire to control the situations around us and those that we love. But we cannot. As we enter into this worship experience, allow my weakness to show your strength and your greater plan for our life. God, give us the understanding that your grace is all we need. Help us to discover the paths which you have made for us and the beauty that can be found in the midst of these difficulties. Be with us in frustrations and help us to be proud of our individual weakness, because they reveal to us your strength and protection.

CENTERING MUSIC:

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Unison)**

Like a brilliant shaft of sunlight piercing the dark clouds of a stormy day...like an unexpected visit from a dear friend at a moment of pained loneliness...like the surprise of winning when loss had already been conceded...so the appearing of your love and kindness, Jesus, has astonished me and set my heart at rest. Thank you for loving me, Lord---not because of my goodness but because of your grace!

***PRAYER: (RESPONSIVELY) (based on Mark 6:7-13)**

L: Holy One of Nazareth, we see you calm storms, heal illness, even restore life,

P: Yet we still struggle to trust you.

L: You send us out,

P: But we want to stay home.

L: You provide partners for the journey,

P: But we want to go it alone.

L: You give us authority over evil,

P: But we don't know how to use it.

L: You say we need only the clothes on our back and a staff in our hand,

P: But we pile the car full of food, clothes, tools and toys. We make sure our phones are charged and our GPS is on.

L: You tell us to accept hospitality,

P: But we don't like to put people out.

L: You say that if people are unkind, we should simply shake the dust off of our feet,

P: But we would rather get mad and post about it on Facebook or other social media

venues.

All: We have much to learn from you, Jesus, about traveling gracefully through this life. Forgive our failings and grant us a deeper trust.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Hear these words from Christ: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, go forth in the power of the almighty, who forgives you and loves you. **Amen.**

HYMN:
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"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

UMH

~WE PROCLAIM~

~ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Good News Translation (GNT) (Unison)

But to keep me from being puffed up with pride because of the many wonderful things I saw, I was given a painful physical ailment, which acts as Satan's messenger to beat me and keep me from being proud. Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. But his answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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

SERMON:

"Somebody Love You"

Pastor Clarissa

PASTORAL PRAYER: Almighty God, precious Lord and Savior, despite all of the challenges, all of the worries of this world, your grace is sufficient. Because of your love and grace, you sent your one and only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Clothed in His righteousness, we dare to approach your throne of grace; forgiven and redeemed

children of the Most-High. Heavenly Father, we cling to that promise of grace and forgiveness and praise your Holy Name.

Filled with Grace

By Lois Parker Edstrom &
Richard Niell Donovan

Object: Cereal Bowl

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Good morning Young People. This morning I would like to talk with you about being strong. You and I, each one of us, are born to be strong, but we don't always feel that way. And some of us are physically stronger than others.

However, each of us, and our parents are sometimes weak, even when we try to be strong. Weakness may occur when we become frightened of certain things, spend time feeling bad about past mistakes., or spoke an unkind word to someone. We may worry that we cannot do something we would like to do, or need to do. This makes us feel weak.

Jesus teaches us that we can become strong because of our weaknesses. He said, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

That is a difficult lesson. How can we be strong at those times when we feel weak?

Let's think about that question in this way. Could you think of yourself as being like this bowl? What would you most like to put in the bowl? We could fill it with your favorite cereal or soup. Or maybe your favorite ice cream or dessert.

Now think of what you could be filled with that would help you live a strong, happy, fun life.

Can you imagine being filled with God's grace? ***Grace is a word that means we are given something we don't deserve. It is another word for God's love.***



God understands our weaknesses and forgives us for the mistakes we have made. God's love and grace gives us the power and strength to make good choices. ***The Bible teaches us that when we feel weak his grace is enough.***

When you fill your bowl with your favorite food, think about filling yourself with GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE. What power!!

Young People, so that Christ's power, strength and might may rest on and reside in each of you, I humbly pray: gracious Lord I pray that your Holy Power will become a shelter like a tent to protect each one of your beloved Young People from the wind and rain and storms that come into their life. Always reminding them that your Grace is sufficient. Amen.

