

WORSHIP HANDOUT  
Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>  
Stewardship



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME TFWS 2236 Gather Us In (OneLic) vs. 1,4

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Already overburdened with the demands  
of work and leisure, family and friends,  
we come to this place in search of rest.

**May we find here the strength to work for justice.**

Forgiveness is elusive and anger is justified,  
too often we settle for the sweet fleeting fruit of revenge.

**May we find here the patience to embody mercy.**

Deluded by the world in which we live  
receiving power and prestige and money as just reward  
missing the Spirit's call  
to a life grounded in humble service.

**May we find here the wisdom to walk in the Spirit.**

—Copyright Katherine Hawker, 2002, and posted on her [Outside the Box](#) website.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Hallelu, Hallelujah

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM God's Love Never Changes, by Dick and Melodie  
Tunney

LESSON 1      Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14

**<sup>4</sup> The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. <sup>7</sup> Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.**

**<sup>10</sup> The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. <sup>12</sup> When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.**

**May God add a Blessing to this reading.**

\*LESSON 2                      Matthew 20:1-16

**“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.**

**<sup>3</sup> “Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He**

said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I'll pay you whatever is right.' <sup>5</sup> And they went.

"Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?'

<sup>7</sup> "Because nobody has hired us,' they replied.

"He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

<sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.'

<sup>13</sup> "But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' <sup>16</sup> So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Can you believe this?!

\*HYMN:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH 400

## TIME OF PRAYER

### UNISON PRAYER

Loving and righteous God,  
you are far more generous to us,  
and to all who work in your kingdom,  
than we desire or deserve.

Make us generous to others  
as you have been to us.

We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

— posted on the Lutheran Church of Australia's [LCA Worship Planning Page](#).

## Prayers/Names of the People

### PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

#### 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 now and forever. Amen.

HYMN                      UMH 399 Take My Life and Let It Be

#### OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*UNISON PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
giver of every good and perfect gift,  
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,  
that we may praise you not with our words only,  
but with our whole lives. Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

TFWS 2186 Song of Hope

**POSTLUDE**