

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday October 25th

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (liturgist)

Next Sunday is All Saints Day – Please make sure you submit all names you wish to have included in the bulletin and lifted up during worship to the office by Tuesday afternoon.

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME Open Doors

*CALL TO WORSHIP (liturgist) – *Adapted from Liturgy that Matters by enfleshed*

Lit: In mystery and material, God takes shape among us...

**All: In flesh that hungers, aches, and longs;
In lands and people, tears and rage.**

Lit: God is not a distant concept, abstracted from our lives...

All: God is close, intimate, and as present as our breath.

Lit: And yet, this Holy Mystery resists all our rational constraints...

All: God is in the questions with which we wrestle.

Lit: When the world is strange, chaotic, and unexplainable...

All: God gives us invitations to explore unknowns with Holy Curiosity.

Lit: Let God's mercy and justice be the compass that guides us toward a fuller life and love...

All: Amen.

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God,

As individuals and as a community, so often we make assumptions about the people we know and the people we think we know. We acknowledge there are forces of dominance that seek to limit our perspectives... even our own fears of what we don't know or understand. Help us find courage and humility in our faith seeking understanding. Help us learn to be curious and honest, as we pursue the deeper truths of this inspiring world you've created. Create in us an openness to be transformed by expanding our horizons. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER This is the Day UMH 657
CHILDREN'S MOMENT

HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty UMH 64

LESSON I Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 (NRSVUE) (liturgist)

19 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

²“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ³You shall each revere your mother and father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. ⁴Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I am the Lord your God.

¹⁵“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

¹⁷“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

May God Add a Blessing to this Reading

***LESSON 2** **Matthew 22:34-46 (NRSVUE) (preacher)**

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah?^[c] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

This is the Word of God for all people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "The Greatest Commandment" by Rev. Erin Guzman.

*HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH 89

TIME OF PRAYER (preacher)

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER (preacher)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy One,

We grow so accustomed to our ways of thinking, being, and doing... We get comfortable with what others tell us to believe about God, each other, ourselves, and the wider world. Though we need boundaries to feel safe, we know, too, of the dangers of placing full trust in earthly powers which dictate the borders of our ideas, morality, or practices. We pray with earnest and full hearts that we can be brave enough to notice what arises when we run so quickly to the familiar... and to remember that God often calls us to wilderness, discomfort, and transformation. Create in us open minds to explore new landscapes of belief and practice which center love, care, and concern for the most vulnerable among us. May we love all of our neighbors just as fiercely as you love us.

LORD'S PRAYER (preacher)

ANTHEM

"I Love You, Lord" by Laurie Klein

OFFERTORY (liturgist)

*DOXOLOGY (liturgist)

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive: liturgist)

Lit: We believe in a restoring God,

All: Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.

Lit: We believe in a restoring God,

All: Who restores our souls through the gift of grace and second chances.

Lit: We believe in a restoring God,

All: Who restores this hurting world through the gift of mercy and God's son Jesus Christ.

Lit: And we believe in a restoring God who invites us to join in this restoration work.

All: As people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors, forgiving seventy times seven, welcoming the children, seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.

Lit: And so we will work until God's promised day.

All: This we believe. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (preacher)

Pass It On UMH 572 v I & 3

POSTLUDE