



Date: October 24th, 2021 22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Greeting and Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prelude: Prelude In E Minor J. S. Bach

Lighting of the Candles: **Please enjoy a moment of silence and inner reflection as we quietly prepare ourselves for worship**

***Opening Hymn O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing**

UMH No. 57

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free; his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven; anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.

Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 34

Pastor: Bless the Lord at all times

People: Praise shall continually be on my mouth

Pastor: Our souls boast in the Lord

People: Let the humble hear and be glad

Pastor: Magnify the Lord

People: who hears and delivers from fears

Pastor: O taste and see that the Lord is good

People: Happy are those who take refuge in him

Unison Prayer: Eternal One, whose thoughts and ways are not ours, you alone are God, awesome, holy, and most high. Teach us in the ways of faith and wisdom, that we, like Job, may learn to truly see and hear, and in humility find blessing. Amen.

OT Reading Job 42: 1-6, 10-17

NT Reading Hebrews 7: 23-28

***Hymn: Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**

UMH No. 351

1. Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Refrain: Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

2. Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief, kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief.

[Refrain]

3. Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face; heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace.

[Refrain]

4. Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me, whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heaven but thee?

[Refrain]

Gospel Reading: Mark 10: 46-52

Pastor: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Choral Anthem

Message: What's lost and restored.

As diverse as we all are in this room right now, we certainly share some things in common. Some things just speak to the human condition and cause us to sigh collectively. I'm thinking of one right now that continues

to plague our existence: we've all lost something dear to us, and have not been able to regain it. Perhaps you immediately go to a spouse or a close friend and ask. Or go on a hunt around the house, overturning everything, wracking your brain trying to remember where exactly you would have lost it.

For some of us who are a little closer to the years of our childhood, perhaps you go to your parents house and try to remember all the places where you hid your favorite items. However, to me it always seems when we return to those places, they are filled with things that were not how you remember. When did my old toy chest become a place for storing candles?

I remember once having a pink and white zebra striped rubber ball that was about the size of a fist. It was a large rubber ball, and my brother had a similar one in black-and-white. In my mind, I remember the last day that I had that ball. I remember being proud that I had that ball for so many years and I remember playing with it outside. It seems like years later, I went to where I knew where the ball was last, and I opened up the drawer: and the ball was not there. I turned over the house, I tore through my room looking for that rubber ball. But it was gone. Time has a way of making things disappear that you didn't know you'd miss.

Some people remember the commercials on TV when they were a kid. They remember being annoyed by the commercial, but when they get older they remember that slice of time. And there's no way to find it again, save looking on youtube with a few search words.

Some of us can still sing the jingles of the commercials that happened over 20 years ago. Some over 40 years ago. And if you're lucky, 60. Maybe you don't miss the commercial, but you miss the time. The associated memories.

To this day, I still miss that ball I lost. I know it seems trivial, but it was something that meant a lot to me. Children's toys can be that way, since they are so formative in our development.

Sometimes, we can try to replace the things that we've lost. I have not, but I could go online and see if I can find a large rubber ball (zebra-striped pink and white) so I can have one again. In fact, if the company is still around, I could get almost an identical replica of my big pink zebra striped ball. If I really wanted, I could get 2. One for me, and one for a friend. Or, I could just keep both and be really glad that I have 'friends such as these'.

But I know that those toys I would order online would not be the same as the one that I lost years ago now. Any rubber ball gift that anyone would give me, even with the best of intentions, would not be the same ball that I lost.

I suppose you could guess where I'm going with this, given the Job reading for today. What an interesting end to our Job narrative that spanned the last few weeks. God comes in and addresses Job, and Job answers the Lord.

Job says "I know God, I didn't understand before." Job quotes from other parts of Scripture that are relevant to what has happened. Job says he will repent, even though the point of what he said to God was that he did nothing wrong. Even though God says Job is blameless, Job still repents. I think he is repenting for taking his position before God too seriously in the previous chapters.

In a way, God was gracious with Job, and corrected him while also telling Job that he was innocent of crimes against God.

The interesting part of this passage is that the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, and gave twice as much as God had given before.

Twice as much as given before. It interests me that Job's brothers and sisters stay the same, but they just return to him. They dine with him and they show him sympathy and comfort. They give him money and promises.

Job receives a lot of animals: sheep, camels, oxen, donkey's. He receives a bunch of livestock which means wealth in those days. It means the ability to travel, the ability to sell animals for traveling. It means a happier life on Earth. These replaced the animals that Job lost in the beginning of the book.

Perhaps Job wasn't as attached to his previous herds as I was to my rubber ball, but there's still an argument that there is no way to truly replace animal companions.

But then comes the trickiest part. Job and his wife have more children. In case you didn't remember, (I don't think the lectionary this year went over it) all Job's previous children died in an accident.

We know that there is no way to replace children. Our offspring are far more valuable than any item we could think of.

Hearing lives referred to in this context lends to the understanding that the book of Job is not a factual story. While it may not have actually happened in real life, it still tells truths about God. And about people.

The truth it is telling is **not** that our children are replaceable, or that our individual lives must mean nothing to God. I think it shows that God is far beyond what we imagine God as being. We can and do attempt to speak what we think God wants humanity to know. We attempt to back up our opinions with biblical examples. This book humbles us, and tells us that we are not the center of the universe. Our cases may be all important, but they are not the only tasks that God deals with. We are not God.

However, God does not just shrug us off.

There's no way to fully explain why bad things happen in the world. It's something that the writers of the entire Bible throughout all the years have dealt with. It's something that is continuously described in the New Testament, (and nodded to in our Hebrew passage about Christ being a necessary mediator between God and humanity.)

There is sin in the world, and it needs to be addressed. But it needs to be addressed, because there is so much grace and love to cover it.

You would want a perpetrator to apologize and make amends before they are forgiven by the one they offended.

God wants us to be able to come into true life with clean consciences and pure hearts.

God has mercy on Job's friends, and God restores Job (with a bit more, too). While we may not like the example of replacing children, this says that God can replace the impossible.

We cannot replace the impossible, and we will lose much in the passage of time. But God is far greater than we can imagine. We should not *expect* God to bring back our family members, our houses, our health. We should not expect God to return that pink zebra-striped rubber ball to us.

Though it is not beyond God to perform miracles. "Go; your faith has made you well."

But through Christ's atonement, and continual mediation after the ascension, we can be restored to glory, and even a bit more.

God is interested in righteousness, justice, and truth. And before these, love. While it may seem like a tall order, this is something we have our whole lives to work on.

As you go back out into the world, troubled by so much, know that God can and will restore many things to you: Maybe not in this lifetime, but in an escatalogical (ultimate) realization.

God is now working on our behalf: talking, mediating, leading. And our hope rests on that.

Offering and Doxology

UMH No. 94

Pastoral Prayer:

Pastor: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

People: For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Pastor: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Pastor: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Pastor: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Pastor: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Pastor: For Bishop Mark Webb, DS Mike Weeden, all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Pastor: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. **silence for personal prayers** Hear us, Lord;

People: For your mercy is great.

Pastor: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. **silence for personal prayers** We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Pastor: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. **silence for personal prayers** Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

The 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 power and the glory forever. Amen

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Announcements

- 1.) Helping Hands collection for Thanksgiving goods is coming! More to be announced.
- 2.) Celebrating our Blessings, and Sharing our Gifts Sunday is Nov. 14th.
- 3.) Want to be a lay reader? (Good practice for public speaking!)
- 4.) Grace Smith is 101 on October the 30th: please consider sending a birthday card!
Grace's address is: 32 Church St., Apt.#9, Brasher Falls, NY 13613

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Postlude: Fugue In E Minor J. S. Bach

Birthdays

Connie McElwain	10/25
Kenneth Willmert	10/25
Tim Frick	10/26
Greg Murray	10/27
Una Frank	10/28
Grace Smith	10/30
Tim Virgil	10/30

Upcoming Meetings/Studies/Events

Sunday October 24, 2:00pm - Funeral service for Betsy Van Riper Baker-Whitney

Tuesday October 19, 5:30pm – Bible Study – Ecclesiastes – Google Meet

Thursday October 28, 3:00pm – Church Council – Google Meet

Greeters/Ushers

Oct. 24: Greg Murray and Doug & Jean Theobald

Oct. 31: Carrie Livernois and Trish Lewis

Weekly Offering:

\$ 725.00: October 17 offering

\$1,700.00: need each week

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am - 11pm

Pastor Taylor's Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm, Thursdays 10am-2pm.

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