

**Faith In Action -Sunday April 29, 2018**

**Welcome and Invitation to prepare our hearts for Worship**

**--ringing of Bell—**

**Call to Worship -Psalm 136 The Message, modified**

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<sup>1-3</sup>Thank GOD! God deserves our thanks.

***God's love never quits.***

Thank the God of all gods,  
Thank the Lord of all lords.

***God's love never quits.***

<sup>4-22</sup>Thank the miracle-working God,

***God's love never quits.***

The God whose skill formed the cosmos,  
The God who laid out earth on ocean foundations,  
The God who filled the skies with light,  
The sun to watch over the day,  
Moon and stars as guardians of the night,

***God's love never quits.***

<sup>23-26</sup> God remembered us when we were down,  
Rescued us from sin,  
Takes care of everyone in time of need.

***God's love never quits.***

Thank God, who did it all!

***God's love never quits!***

GREET ONE ANOTHER—Pass the Love and Peace of God

Announcements/Offering/Prayer of Dedication (of ourselves as well)

Praise—to a faithful God whose Love never quits!

We confess that we often quit, and give up on ourselves and others, and even you, Lord. Forgive us. Fill us with your Spirit who can empower us to serve you and your children, faithfully and lovingly.

Prayers of Praise and continued healing for Lauren Hardman.

Praise for the birth of Jeannette, granddaughter of Andrea and Chris Johnson, born on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers of Peace and comfort for those who have lost loved ones—family of Don Sharp and family of Ed Prince...

Speak to our hearts through your word today...bless the gifts we give of time-of talent-of treasure.

We dedicate these our gifts and ourselves to your service, as we pray all these things in the name of our Lord Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

“Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

Scripture Reading—**Matthew 25:31-41 RSV**

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see thee sick or in prison and

visit thee?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

## MEDITATION

This is one of Jesus' last sections of teaching in Matthew's Gospel.

Jesus says how we treat "the least of these"—the most vulnerable in our society--is surely how we treat Jesus himself.

How do we treat those who are hungry and thirsty?

How do we truly welcome the one who is a stranger in our midst?

How do we treat those who are dressed in a way that does not meet our standard—that is, our standard of cleanliness or our standard of appropriateness?

How do we care for those who are infirm, who are differently abled, who may struggle with mental illness?

We have a huge number of people in our country who are incarcerated. Presently, as a congregation, we are not engaged with them. However at presbytery we listened to the testimony of members of Southminster PC who are engaged in supporting the library services at the area prison. They started small, but have increased their involvement there—providing appropriate gift bags for prisoners and seeing that simple items are available to them.

Today we will be supporting Plateau Outreach Ministries food bank with dry soup mix, supplying items for "blessing bags" to be handed out to those on street corners or off-ramps, creating cards that will be used in a variety of ministries, doing some yard work and upkeep around this facility, as well as our singers, along with Pastor Cindy who will be bringing worship and music to three senior/retirement facilities here in town.

These are all worthy activities. What is interesting too is that these are things that nearly anyone can do. It does not require a college degree or any special qualification to share our love of Jesus with those who are hungry, thirsty, or lonely. It requires simple obedience.

Furthermore, when the day of judgement comes and Jesus comments that those who did these things are blessed and welcome, their response is:

When did we see YOU hungry and feed you,

When did we see YOU naked and clothe you, etc.

They responded to people in this way, un-self-consciously. It was their modus operandi...their way of being in the world...and Jesus rewards them for it...for acting as Jesus himself would act.

And so today and every day I trust we shall be simply obedient to God's word. Nothing more, nothing less.

***That is why every day is "faith in action" day!***

Let us pray: Lord we commit ourselves to your service each and every day. Thank you for those who have prepared the meal for us, and bless the food that it may energize us to serve you better.

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

SONG: "Here I am, Lord"

Benediction and Sending us Out