

The Method in Methodism



**October 17th, 2021
Christian Perfection**

Order of Worship

8:00 & 11:00am Traditional Worship
October 17th, 2021

Prelude

Susan Fraser

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

People: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

People: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

- *Psalm 19:7-11*

***Opening Hymn**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

384 UMH

***Collect**

Perfecting God, you grant us the free gift of your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to perfect us in love for you and for our neighbors. Grant that we may continually grow in that love and become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we pray, Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Ecclesiastes 7:15-20

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 3:2-16

Anthem (11:00)

Adult Choir

***Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 5:43-48

Sermon

The Method in Methodism: Christian Perfection

Rev. Dr. Bob Kaylor

Pastoral Prayer and a Time of Silence

*Please stand if you are able

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal located under chairs

Order of Worship

*Affirmation of Faith	The Nicene Creed	880 UMH
*Response	Lead Me, Lord	473 UMH

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent confession)

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offering Prayer

Offertory Music

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Susan Fraser

95 UMH

****Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion** 15 UMH

*Closing Hymn O For a Heart to Praise My God 417 UMH

Sending Forth Rev. Dr. Bob Kaylor

Postlude Susan Fraser

*Please stand if you are able

**Communion Instructions may be found on the Welcome Page
UMH- United Methodist Hymnal located under chairs

Order of Worship

9:30am Contemporary Worship
October 17th, 2021

***Song Set**

***Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 5:43-48

Sermon

The Method in Methodism: Christian Perfection

Rev. Dr. Bob Kaylor

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

880 UMH

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent confession)

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Offering

****Communion**

15 UMH

Prayers of the People

***Closing Song**

Dismissal

*Please stand if you are able

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Sermon Notes & Discussion Guide

Christian Perfection

“What is perfection? The word has various senses: here it means perfect love. It is love excluding sin; love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul. It is love rejoicing evermore, praying without ceasing, in everything giving thanks.”

—John Wesley, “The Scripture Way of Salvation”

THE DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINE: Christian Perfection

Defining “Perfection”

- Latin: *perfectus* – static, flawless, finished
- Greek: *teleiotes* – dynamic, process, becoming “perfected”

What Christian Perfection is NOT:

- Freedom from _____
- Freedom from _____
- Freedom from _____
- Freedom from _____

What Christian Perfection IS:

- Holiness = an ongoing process of becoming more like _____, loving God and neighbor to the exclusion of _____.

THE DISTINCTIVE METHOD: Class and Band meetings

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- What insights did you gain from this week’s message?
- What questions did it raise for you?
- How would you answer the historic Methodist questions: Are you going on to perfection? Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life? Are you earnestly striving after it?
- How will you, as a Methodist, live out both the distinctive doctrine and distinctive practice of our faith tradition?