

Worship Leader Edition
Stewardship of God's Love

April 18, 2021

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Stephanie*)

LITANY FOR NEIGHBORS (*Rob/Stephanie*)

L: Christ, you taught us the keys to life,

C: the great commandments:

L: Love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength:

C: love our neighbors as ourselves.

L: We are asked to love Love

C: and to serve Love.

L: Teach us what this means, oh God,

C: and help us to do it well.

L: So fill us with love, oh God,

C: and awakened by Love.

L: Let our eyes never veer from Love,

C: our hearts never stray from Love,

L: our minds be fixed on Love,

C: our bodies dedicated to Love's service.

L: And as we do the work of learning to accept and love ourselves,

C: let us also accept and love our neighbors.

L: For these are our neighbor and our family:

C: the poor, the lonely, the sick, the prisoner, the flawed and downtrodden

L: Love is who and whose we are.

C: And love is what we do. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

ELW #686

Verse 1

We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.

Verse 2

May we thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blessest us,
To thee our first fruits give.

Verse 3

The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace
It is a Christ-like thing.

Verse 4

And we believe thy word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
We do it unto thee.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Assistant*)

L: O God, you created us in your image. Turn selfishness and fear into compassion and joy, so we too are love. Free us and inspire us to love all persons, those whom we would deem unlovable, and those whom we find it easy to love. Help us love ourselves in gratitude for the gifts you have given us; may the Spirit move us to use these gifts in to share your love with others and all creation, in Jesus name. Amen.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING (*Bette Gamboni*)

Malachi 3:7-12

Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the LORD of hosts. Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength”, and “to love one’s neighbor as oneself”,—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

ELW #650

Verse 1

In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north,
But one community of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Verse 3

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate’er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

Verse 2

In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding all humankind.

Verse 4

In Christ now meet both east and west,
In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*Assistant*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

L: Risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer.**

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

C: **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

SHARING OF THE PEACE (*Stephanie*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you!**

Please share of wave of peace with one another.

COUNCIL INTRODUCTION – Barb Roberts, Stewardship

BENEDICTION (*Stephanie*)

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”

ELW #863

Verses 1, 2 & 5

Verse 1

My God, how wonderful thou art,
Thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat
In depths of burning light!

Thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
And awesome purity!

Verse 2

How wonderful, how beautiful
The sight of thee must be

Verse 5

My God, how wonderful thou art,
Thou everlasting friend!
On thee I stay my trusting heart
Till faith in vision end.

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

