

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2016

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

*Ringing of the Bell

Opening Music

All: It only takes a spark to get a fire going,

And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.

That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;

You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn: #37 "Our God, to Whom We Turn" Verses 1, 2, 4

(omit verse 3)

Reading of Scripture: Luke 16:1-13

Call to Reconciliation

Pastor: God desires to grant us a new beginning for our lives. Let us come to God and confess the state of our lives.

Reconciliation Prayer

All: We confess to you, O God of wisdom and grace, that we have sinned.

- We have chosen foolishly to seek after things that cannot satisfy.
- We have sought for wealth, property, the esteem of others, power and position.
- We have placed our hopes on other mortals who, in the end, always fail us.
- We have not sought you and your wisdom.
- We have not made loving you the first priority of our lives and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us and empower us with your Spirit of wisdom that we might choose what is right and good for us and for all humanity. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Kyrie # 750

All: Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

Pastor: God is ever seeking our good and inviting us to grow in faith and wisdom. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

*Act of Praise..... #760

(Please stand)

All: Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)

Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)

Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!

Amen we praise your name, O God!

*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

Children's Time: "What Does a Pastor Do?"

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery)

Anthem: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

Sermon: "Honest to Goodness"

***Hymn: #552 "From the Crush of Wealth and Power"**

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer "Pray"

All: **Pray** ____, **pray** ____, **pray** ____ **for peace within our world** ____.

Pray ____, **pray** ____, **pray** ____ **for peace within our souls** ____.

Pray ____, **pray** ____, **pray** ____ **for love and unity** _____;

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray ____, **pray** ____, **pray** ____ .

Pray ____, **pray** ____, **pray** ____.

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer,

Prayer of Our Savior (spoken)

All: **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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music

*Offertory Response "We Are Giving in the Light of God" (526)

All: **We are giving in the light of God,**

We are giving in the light of God (Repeat previous 2 lines)

We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,

We are giving in the light of God (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn #543 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"**

*The Benediction

***Benediction Response**

Peace I Leave with Your My Friends

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to you so you can give to others, too." The score includes chord markings (D, Em, G, D, F#m, Em, Gm, D, Em, G, D, F#m, Bm, Em, G, D) and a first ending bracket with first, second, and third endings.

*Postlude

Trude Hayes is participating in today's worship service along with...
The Congregation.....Disciples of Christ
Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....Pastor
Irina Thomas.....Organist and Keyboard
Rheba Salac.....Administrative Assistant
Wade Anderson.....Sexton

Did you know that last Sunday we received \$160 towards flood relief for our neighbors in Connellsville, PA to help in recovery from the devastation that occurred last month? The monies will be sent to the Connellsville Area Community Ministries and distributed through the churches in the area. Envelopes are provided in your bulletin today for your convenience if you still want to make a donation.

This week:
Thursday-Choir 7:00PM
Saturday-Bible Study at the Murrysville Panera 9:00AM

Looking ahead-Our Ham Dinner will be held October 22.

Attendance for September 11: 50

Offering for September 11: \$1,673.00
Connellsville Flood Relief: \$160.00

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

When You're Hurting

"Is evil a recompense for good?" - Jeremiah 18: 20

Out of prophet Jeremiah's tough life came tough questions. Like this one, "Is evil a recompense for good?" Or to be a little more colloquial, "Is this what I get for doing the right thing?"

Elsewhere, Jeremiah flips to the other side of the coin to ask God, "Why do the evil prosper?"

Questions like these are not low-key inquiries. They are not asked in a

neutral tone, as if saying, "How was the movie?" or "Which way is the grocery store?" They are charged. They carry a full freight of feeling: anger, hurt, sadness, confusion, despair, rejection, more anger. Did I mention anger? To do the right thing and be rejected — and not just rejected but even attacked — is one of the most dis-orienting experiences a human being can have. It's not supposed to be this way!

And yet, it is. It is this way. The lives of the prophets, the story of Jesus, the lives of countless advocates of justice and righteousness throughout history confirm it.

If we don't have easy or straightforward answers to Jeremiah's tough questions, we can at least be grateful that we find them in the sacred Scriptures of our faith. In the Bible we hear people telling it like it is. Thank God. This means that when we are in the midst of such an experience, we are a little less alone. It means we worship a God who can handle the questions born of hurt, anger and rejection.

Such anguished questions also tell us that in the short-term and in the heat of the present moment there are no easy or obvious correlations between righteousness and reward, between evil and punishment. We live, as an old friend liked to say, "This side of the Promised Land," by which she meant — here and now, things aren't always clear and don't always make sense.

But faith means believing that ultimately there is moral meaning in the universe. This is at least part of the significance of the resurrection. To believe and live with the confidence that there is moral meaning in a world that daily challenges such trust — that is faith and it is a beautiful thing to behold.

Prayer

When stung by rejection or attack, grant us the company of the faithful who have likewise suffered and the healing power of your love. Amen.



About the Author . . . Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher, and writer. His newest book is Called to Lead: Paul's Letters to Timothy for a New Day. You can read Tony's "Weekly Meditation" and "What's Tony Thinking?" at his website, www.anthonyrobinson.com.