

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, November 22, 2020

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info (*not in recorded services)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, open your hearts to the Lord!

P: We are grateful to be here, remembering all that Christ has done for us.

L: Friends and family – all are welcome in the house of the Lord.

P: Those who are new to our church, those who seek, those who feel lost and alone.

L: Christ meets us here; he breaks the bread of salvation for us.

P: He embraces us with his transforming and forgiving love.

L: Dear friends, let us rejoice in God's love.

P: We are called to receive that love and reach out in compassion to others.

OPENING PRAYER

God of justice and peace, bring your dazzling light into our hearts and spirits that we might see the glorious opportunities we have to serve you. Help us to see that following your mandate to feed the hungry, bring nourishment to those who thirst, offer clothing to those in need, visit the sick and those who are imprisoned, welcome the stranger – any activity of service as an act of great privilege and joy. We praise you for the light of your son, Jesus Christ, who boldly bids us care for each other and become those who would bring good news of peace for all. AMEN.

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Sharing God's Blessings with Others

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46 The Judgment of the Nations

MESSAGE Entrusted with Each Other

*HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns UMH #327

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next week Advent begins with the message *The End of the World as We Know It*

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: In Christ's Glory

Read Matthew 25:31-46

- What would it feel like to hear verse 34 spoken over you?
- What is the difference between the sheep's and the goats' responses in verses 37 and 44?
[Notice that the first response is longer and always positive; whereas, the second is shorter and in the negative – “did not take care of you?”.]
- What was the difference between how the “sheep” lived compared with how the “goats” lived? [The preaching notes observe that the goats lived in a way more about passing the test; whereas, the sheep lived a life of servanthood to any in need.]
- How does this passage connect with the previous two week's passages? *[The first week's passage was about acting wisely with our time; the second week's passage was about acting wisely concerning stewardship. Generally speaking, this passage is about seeing the needs of others (seeing all the people) and responding (wisely and responsibly) to the needs of all. It also connects with the first passage by the invitation of the master - entering into the joy of the master. Here the invitation is to enter the glory of Christ. In the second week's passage, those who invested wisely were rewarded. In today's passage, those who invest their lives wisely are invited into the glory of the kingdom.]*
- A colleague is fond of saying, “The secret to life is paying attention.” Paying attention is easier said than done in a culture full of distractions and attention seekers. Paying attention is a muscle we need to exercise. When we are paying attention to the needs around us (*Seeing All The People*), we don't think about what we're doing; we just live out what's in us.
- What activities and/or how can this group (your church) help you to pay attention to the needs of those around you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Compassionate God, we give you thanks for your abiding presence with us. Guide us to be more aware of opportunities to see you in the face and needs of those we encounter. Empower us to be focused on being your servants with and to all people that we might experience your glory. Amen.

NOTE

Christmas Eve Services will be held December 24th at 3pm at Sprucetown UMC and 6pm at St. James UMC. You may watch a service online at www.pennsvalleyparish.info and you may call the local message number 422-6238. If you wish to have a thumbdrive copy, please provide the pastor with your thumbdrive and she will copy the service to it and give it back to you.