

**Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, November 8, 2020**

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at [www.PennsValleyParish.info](http://www.PennsValleyParish.info) (\*not in recorded services)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Nov. 15 - PV Charge Conference 3pm at Trinity UMC, Woodward**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are pulled in many directions.

**P: Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.**

L: This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

**P: This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.**

L: Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

**P: Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord, we are always seeking guidance for the journey you have placed us on. We would like it if everything was spelled out so that we knew what to expect. But that's not the way life works. You remind us, in the story of the 10 bridesmaids, that we should always be ready to seek you and to serve you. Open our hearts today and remind us of your awesome love for us throughout all the generations, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth UMH #92 v. 1-3 only

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE God Helps Me Know the Right Thing to Do

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

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13 NRSV

MESSAGE Who is Responsible for My Oil?

\*HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth UMH #92 v. 4-6 only

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next Week our message is *Multiplying Our Impact*

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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## BIBLE STUDY: The Shout at Midnight

Read Matthew 25:1-13

- In this parable, Jesus is using a common scene from a wedding ceremony. Bridesmaids would leave the bride at night, to meet the groom. They would then accompany the groom, whenever he decided (perhaps shouting his intentions at midnight), back to the bride's house. They would then travel back to the groom's father's house for a ceremony, and festivities that could last up to a week with many in the village in attendance. With those considerations, do you understand the response of the bridesmaids in verse 9? *[Besides just missing the wedding ceremonies, these bridesmaids are also risking public shaming. It would be very risky not to have the oil needed for the lamps.]*
- Have you ever had friends or family members do something so embarrassing that you didn't want to identify with them? How do you think that same dynamic is in the words of the reply in verse 12? *[It is not that the speaker didn't actually know them by name; their actions were so foolish that he did not recognize why they had acted so foolishly. This added to their shame. In addition, they missed out on all the festivities.]*
- As Christians, we are taught to be generous. In Acts 2:44-45, we see a model of the church where believers share with one another. Why don't you think the bridesmaids were chided for not being more generous? Why do you think the bridesmaids were wise for not sharing? *[If they had, there wouldn't have been enough for any of them.]*
- How does the last verse help us interpret the parable? *[It makes Jesus' point for telling the parable clear: Disciples are called to be ready at a moment's notice and are to make proper preparations.]*
- A "shout at midnight" is a surprise announcement. What does it look like to be prepared spiritually?
- What habits might help you be more prepared spiritually? How can this group help you be more prepared?

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Gracious God, we trust that you are at work reconciling the world to yourself even now and even when we may not see it. Give us the eyes of faith to see and continue empowering us to be prepared to be your witnesses to all we may encounter this coming week. Amen.*