

MUMC At-Home Worship:

October 4, 2020

We've made it to October! This month in worship, we're going to be focusing in on one of the basic characteristics of faith: generosity. Just as God has been generous with us in so many ways, we are invited to honor God with our own generosity! We begin this first Sunday with an introductory parable that Deacon Tina will be unpacking in worship (remember that you can call the sermon-by-phone line at 734-206-1531 to hear the most recent sermon!) before beginning a series on "The Generosity Challenge" next week. Accompanying this series, we'll be sending daily generosity practices starting with next week's at-home guide and hosting small groups to reflect on what it looks like to live with generosity. If you'd like to take part in a small group reflection, contact me or the church office to sign up! May we be a community of profound generosity.

Have a blessed week!

-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God, we have come to praise and enjoy you, to give thanks for what we have been given, to share with those in need, to celebrate the diversity of your creation, to laugh and to cry, and to be united in love. So may it be: Amen!

Hymn: *For the Fruits of the This Creation*, United Methodist Hymnal #97 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. Remembering that the Lord's prayer invites God's kingdom to come on earth "as it is in heaven," we might consider that this parable introduced as being about the kingdom of heaven is talking much about our earthly ways of living as making a spiritual statement. How might this parable invite us to treat workers, particularly those as in the parable who are in need of work but simply not hired?
2. It seems that the workers who spent the longest in the fields were only unhappy with their day's pay because they saw others who worked less receive the same amount. How might comparing our lives to others work against God's generosity? When might comparison be a valuable thing?
3. How might we describe a world where the first are last and the last are first? What might God be inviting us to do that would help usher in the kingdom of heaven where this is the case?

Hymn: *Give Thanks*, The Faith We Sing #2036 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Bringing in the Sheaves* – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, free us from resentment to live with the same shocking generosity you have first shown toward us. May we care for those around us and around the world who are in need.
Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

For the Fruits of This Creation
United Methodist Hymnal #97

1. For the fruits of this creation,
thanks be to God;
for good gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

*"For the Fruits of This Creation" words are by Fred Pratt
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Matthew 20:1-16 (CEB)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Give Thanks

The Faith We Sing #2036

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ, His Son
(x2)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
(x2)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ, His Son
Give thanks

"Give Thanks" words are by Henry Smith

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Bringing in the Sheaves

1. Sowing in the morning,
 sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve,
Waiting for the harvest
 and the time of reaping —
We shall come rejoicing,
 bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain:

Bringing in the sheaves,
 bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing,
 bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves,
bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing,
 bringing in the sheaves.

2. Sowing in the sunshine,
 sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds
 nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest and our labor ended -
We shall come rejoicing,
 bringing in the sheaves. (*Refrain*)
3. Going forth with weeping,
 sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained
 our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over
 He will bid us welcome -
We shall come rejoicing,
 bringing in the sheaves.

*"Bringing in the Sheaves" words are by Knowles Shaw, 1874,
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