

MUMC At-Home Worship: February 7, 2021

Have you noticed God bringing forth good from any unexpected places this last week? We're continuing with the same theme with worship today as we jump over to 1 Corinthians and a passage about becoming all things to all people to preach the gospel. In addition to the reflection questions below, you're invited to call our sermon by phone line any time at **734-206-1531** to hear our guest preacher's sermon on the same passage. 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 of the planned and the unexpected, of faithful love and surprising grace, teach us the rhythms of your Spirit. Guide our feet, that we might follow you wherever you might lead. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, United Methodist Hymnal #384 [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. Paul says that he considers it an obligation to proclaim the gospel, not a task to be rewarded for. Why might this be an important distinction for Paul? How might it be valuable for us as well?
2. At first glance, Paul's assertion that he has "become all things to all people" seems an unwise course of action. Indeed, many who have tried to be all things to all people have lost themselves in the process. In the context of the larger passage, however, it seems that Paul fervently maintains his identity in Christ and is talking about freely crossing into other groups to proclaim the gospel to them. In our social and cultural environment today, what barriers might we cross in order to proclaim the gospel?
3. Becoming whatever is necessary to bring the gospel to someone, as Paul describes, would require the humility to listen and learn what a person would in fact need. How do you go about understanding what life is like for someone else? What kind of unexpected good might come from these practices of humility and empathy?

Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*, United Methodist Hymnal #382 [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Take My Life, and Let It Be*, United Methodist Hymnal #399 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Holy God, you have called us all to live as your disciples. As we uncover the freedom that comes from our identity in Christ, may we learn also how to become all things to all people for the sake of the gospel. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
United Methodist Hymnal #384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” words by Charles Wesley, 1747, music by John Zundel, 1870, and both are in the public domain.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (CEB)

If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to brag, since I'm obligated to do it. I'm in trouble if I don't preach the gospel. If I do this voluntarily, I get rewarded for it. But if I'm forced to do it, then I've been charged with a responsibility. What reward do I get? That when I preach, I offer the good news free of charge. That's why I don't use the rights to which I'm entitled through the gospel.

Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them. I act like a Jew to the Jews, so I can recruit Jews. I act like I'm under the Law to those under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law). I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law (though I'm not outside the law of God but rather under the law of Christ). I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

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

Have Thine Own Way, Lord
United Methodist Hymnal #382

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
after thy will,
while I am waiting,
yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord,
wash me just now,
as in thy presence
humbly I bow.
3. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
help me I pray!
Power, all power,
surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me,
Savior divine!
4. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit
till all shall see
Christ only, always,
living in me!

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” words are by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1902, music is by George C. Stebbins, 1907, and both are in the public domain.

Take My Life, and Let It Be
United Methodist Hymnal #399

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

“Take My Life, and Let It Be” words by Frances R. Havegal, 1873, music is by Louis J. F. Herold, 1839, arr. By George Kingsley, 1839, and all are in the public domain.