

Worship Service Resources - [Enough](#)

Pentecost 20, Year B,

10th October, 2021

Amos 5:6-7,10-15 CEV / Mark 10:17-31 CEV

Prelude (Video) [Lord, I Would Follow Thee](#)

music by Susan Evans McCloud, played by Annie Center

Welcome/Call to Worship

Treasure is...Gold and silver, Frankincense and myrrh.

Treasure is... To have and to hold, 'Til death us do part.

Treasure is...Family heirlooms Offering precious memories.

Come...bringing treasure, seeking treasure. Come...treasured, treasuring.

I'm glad to welcome you to online worship with Olympic View Community Church. We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love.

As we gather today, let's think about how we share Christ's peace with others in our daily lives, and those we should reach out to bring a moment of fellowship and peace, as we listen to the following song based on a poem attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

Reflection Video [Make Me a Channel of Your Peace](#)

[with lyrics]

an adaptation by Sebastian Temple of a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi, arr.

by Martin Neary and is

performed by the Westminster Abbey Choir

Invocation

God of peace, a peace that reaches far beyond what we can comprehend, we come before you this morning with our souls hungering for who you are, deeply desiring who you call us to be. May your peace come alive within us. May we see your gifts all around us. May we become, in all ways, your beloved creation. Amen.

We light a candle today to represent the Spirit burning within us, and among us, guiding our time together. (light candle) Amen.

In our reading from the prophet Amos today, we are reminded of God's imperative that we seek justice for those in need. As we listen to these words, let's reflect on what we do, or should do, as individuals and as the body of Christ to promote justice in the world we find ourselves in.

First Testament Reading **Amos 5:6-7,10-15 CEV**

Turn back to the Lord, you descendants of Joseph, and you will live. If you don't, the Lord will attack like fire. Bethel will burn to the ground, and no one can save it.

You people are doomed! You twist the truth and stomp on justice.

You people hate judges and honest witnesses;

you abuse the poor and demand heavy taxes from them. You have built expensive homes, but you won't enjoy them; you have planted vineyards, but you will get no wine.

I am the Lord, and I know your terrible sins. You cheat honest people and take bribes; you rob the poor of justice.

Times are so evil that anyone with good sense will keep quiet.

If you really want to live, you must stop doing wrong and start doing right. I, the Lord God All-Powerful, will then be on your side, just as you claim I am.

Choose good instead of evil! See that justice is done. Maybe I, the Lord All-Powerful, will be kind to what's left of your people.

Scripture Video

[*Amos 5:6-7,10-15*](#)

Turn From Injustice To The Poor

Lectionary bible reading

A Time of Prayer

Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer. If you would like to share a specific request to be included in our communal prayer time, please leave a comment in the video below, or email myself at: vicarglenn@gmail.com, and I'll make sure to include that request in next week's service, as well as send a prayer chain email, if you would like.

Joys and Concerns

Today, let's continue to keep Robert Oberg in prayer as he continues to recover in skilled nursing care.

Let's also remember George DeBon and continue to keep him in prayer as he continues to adjust to life on his own at the memory care center.

We take joy in Myrna's successful transition to her new apartment. I had the opportunity to visit last week and it is a lovely location with the friendliest staff.

But we also remember those among us who are looking for employment. May they be blessed with new opportunities.

Pastoral Prayer

Let's bring these concerns and others in our lives to God together in prayer.

Holy God, the One who walked with the people in the wilderness, the One who walks with us even now, we gather in worship today to receive your grace, to learn your love, to explore your wonders, to become fully people of your heart. From those first days when your Spirit blew over the chaos, you have carried us, providing for our needs, loving us, and showing the way to life. Even though we struggled to learn from the lessons of history, you believed in us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to show us life as your beloved creation. Through his time on this earth, you revealed to us that we are to be people of surprising grace, of generous love, of daring justice, and of hope, always hope.

So we come together as a reminder that you are inviting us to be part of an unfolding story of your life-giving presence. It is a story that unites people of all times and all spaces, a story that unites people of differences and division, a story that becomes the Church, the living Body of Christ in and for this world. But like the people in the wilderness, we tend to grumble and focus on what we do not have, neglecting to see the abundance of You all around. Your Spirit breathes through our lives with the message that You are enough, enough for all the brokenness, for the divisions, for the uncertainty. You are enough. Open our eyes to the wonders around and within us. Open our hearts to the many and diverse ways in which you are present. Open our very beings to you so that we might continue this journey to envelop the world with your love and together find your peace that passes all understanding.

As we sit in the sacred silence of the now, hear the prayers of our hearts – for the world, for others, for ourselves.....

God of the manna, you offer us life, life for ourselves but above all, life for the world. May we become instruments and not merely consumers of that life. May this journey lead us home to you. We pray because of the One who is life, amen.

In our gospel lesson this morning, Jesus highlights where our priorities should be, what we should value and what we should let go. As we hear these words from Mark, let's reflect on what is important in our own lives, and how we use the blessings we've been given.

Gospel Lesson **Mark 10:17-31 CEV**

As Jesus was walking down a road, a man ran up to him. He knelt down, and asked, "Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good.

You know the commandments. 'Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother.'"

The man answered, "Teacher, I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man."

Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, "There's one thing you still need to do. Go sell everything you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me."

When the man heard Jesus say this, he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "It's hard for rich people to get into God's kingdom!"

The disciples were shocked to hear this. So Jesus told them again, "It's terribly hard^[a] to get into God's kingdom!

In fact, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God's kingdom."

Jesus' disciples were even more amazed. They asked each other, "How can anyone ever be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything."

Peter replied, "Remember, we left everything to be your followers!"

Jesus told him: You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news

will be rewarded. In this world they will be given a hundred times as many houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and pieces of land, though they will also be mistreated. And in the world to come, they will have eternal life.

But many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first.

Scripture Video **Mark 10:17-31**

[*Teaching On Wealth And Reward*](#)

Lectionary bible reading

Message - *Enough*

Rev. Glenn Brumbaugh

How much is enough? What do I give? Is having money bad? How should I view wealth as a follower of Jesus? If these questions sound familiar, they should. The subject of wealth, and the privilege that goes with it is as old as the gospel itself. And it's been a subject of debate all that time as well.

As in first century Palestine, we still live in a world that depends on money to provide for our wants and needs. And like that ancient culture, our status in our society is often based, in part, on how successful we are at accumulating wealth and the benefits that go with that. The question is, is that God's intention? Are we in tune with the Divine plan when we prosper and accumulate wealth and the finer things of life, the goods and services that seem to enhance our experience?

Well, to start out with, let's take a look at our terminology. When we use the term "goods," what comes to mind. For most of us, it would probably be all the stuff we buy with the money we acquire: the TV, the furnishings, our clothes, and everything else we fill our home with. It's interesting that the origin of the word "goods" is the plural of good, which is the noun form created from the identical adjective. It has its origins in Old English. That original meaning was "benevolent or kind, or of God." From there, over the centuries, the meaning evolved into something of quality, until the 17th century where it had evolved into the meaning we use today as a commodity.

Reflecting on what good really means is where we find Jesus in our Gospel reading this morning. He's approached by someone in the crowd who addresses him as "good rabbi, (or teacher). The average person wouldn't think twice about being addressed by "good" but Jesus intentionally makes the point that only God is good. That certainly adds a new dimension to our examination of that term. The Bible as a whole makes clear that the blessings we receive in life come from God. Therefore, so do the "goods" we value as well. Jesus takes us back to the origin of that term. Good and God go together. So do we value goods because they satisfy our needs and cravings, or because they come from God?

Jesus is setting the tone for the discussion that follows. This young man has received many blessings, and has evidently lived a pious life, as far as following the laws of the Torah is concerned. One could argue that he was rewarded for his efforts by his material gains. And his contemporaries in the Jewish faith would have the same impression. The standard Jewish theology on the subject was that if you were living an upright, pious life, you would be successful in your endeavors and rewarded. Unfortunately, if you were poor, or sick, or needy, the common wisdom was you must be wicked in some way, and being cursed by God. The young man proudly attests to his upstanding ethics, and Jesus applauds him on his efforts. He asks Jesus what must he do to inherit eternal life.

It's interesting that he uses the term "inherit" instead of get or obtain? To inherit something implies relationship or kinship to someone. It's not something we can voluntarily seek. Inheritance is a benefit given to us, usually for being part of a family in some fashion, or having a close relationship with another. Which gives Jesus the opening to put what's required in a relational perspective, when he tells him to sell what he has and give the money to the poor.

As he so often does in Mark's Gospel, Jesus shifts the focus from heaven at the end of time to the Kin-dom of God here and now. He shifts the man's focus from his own salvation to being a part of something bigger, God's family, part of the kin-dom. And being an heir of God implies that his blessings come from God, and should be used for God. There is the contrast of the sense of belonging that comes from being a part of God's Kin-dom here and now, a sense of kinship, history, and responsibility versus the worldly concept of wealth as a path to self-focused power and privilege, disconnected from God. But Jesus makes it about the love that is the foundation of the Kin-dom.

The scripture tells us that Jesus loved this man. The implication is that he cared and wanted him to choose the right path that not only ensured his place in the hereafter, but more importantly, his place in God's family here and now. Love is of God, and God is love. To be open to participate in that Divine love, he needed to unload the burden and restriction of wealth that kept him from truly participating in the Kin-dom of God. Wealth has become where his heart lies, not God. When given the opportunity to step into the realm of God drawing near, he steps away. Jesus indicates to the disciples that our attachment to all that wealth provides keeps us from the Kin-dom.

The Kin-dom is about living love. It's about a God who gives us blessings to share, not to hoard. It's about a Creator that has designed a world of finite resources and blessings for us to be stewards of. In a finite system, when some have much, others too often don't have enough. God's kin-dom plan depends on relationship and kinship with each other to share our blessings with each other. Jesus reinforces this when he tells the disciples that by giving everything up for God, they will be blessed a hundredfold. That's what the Kin-dom is all about. By giving away our blessings, we are able to receive new blessings. This new family they're joining isn't built on the world's values of those with the most toys win. It's upside down from that. Those who love and show that love through action are rewarded by being part of a community that ensures the needs of all are met. The lowest among them have the highest priority.

What about us? Are we like the young rich man, unable to let go of the temporary security and fleeting pleasures the excess wealth of this world provides? Unfortunately, the world hasn't changed much since this episode with Jesus. We still have those who have much, and those who have not enough; those with the power, and those who suffer under that power.

As Amos reminds us, God's concern is always with justice and those who suffer from injustice. We can choose the life that Jesus presents, sharing our excess with others, or holding onto that which we don't need, and allowing others to suffer the consequences of our choice to hold onto wealth.

In a world today in which those at the top have more and more of the resources, it is more important than ever that we join in the kin-dom work of God and share what we can with our brothers and sisters in need. This world is finite and so are the resources it contains. When some have much, others will have little. The alternative for us is to ride a camel through some pretty difficult terrain and not reach our destination. The result for those without can be catastrophic. Being successful and earning a good salary is not a sin. When we do not share our blessings with others to the fullest extent we can, is when we work against God's plans for us. And the goods we are blessed with are not limited to wealth and "stuff." We are blessed with time and talents as well. I pray as we leave today, we give thought to how we view our resources, those extras that we hold on to, and how we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

Call to Serve.

We should not forget that our offering should be the first fruits of our labors which we dedicate to God. Not only do we honor God by this offering, but it also helps us not to keep the best of what we have for ourselves. By giving our first fruits to God, we help to ensure that those who have little will receive something and we who have much do not keep it entirely for ourselves.

As we continue to seek to be a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, gifts can still be mailed to our church office, or online donations can be made through the link in the video description. Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to Annie play the familiar hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness, let's think about how we can be more faithful with our own resources, as individuals, and as the body of Christ in this community.

A Time for Reflection

Reflection on the Word [Video]

[Great is thy Faithfulness](#)

music by William Runyan,
played by Annie Center

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Blessing/Assurance

Our cup runs over in the house of God. There is always more than enough for everyone, and just enough for our daily needs. When we love, care, and serve one another, we serve Christ. Know God's ways, trust in God's truth, and be assured that you are forgiven, loved, and restored. God and be the good news. Amen.

As we extinguish this candle, let's carry it's divine spark into our own lives this week, shining God's like into the lives of all we encounter. Amen.

Postlude [*Lamb of God*](#)

words and music by Twila Paris, played by Annie Center,
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