

Pastor's Note

Dear Ones,

The dignity of work and the ability to see our work as a means to provide for ourselves and the ones we love is often ignored, forgotten, or rejected. In today's parable, Jesus tells us about a vineyard owner who gives work and dignity to those who need it. He also pays well.

For the most part, we do not believe we work in God's vineyard. We believe we work unto ourselves or our bosses. When we work, we bear witness to the fact that our God is a worker and that he loves workers.

Part of the restoration we look for in the resurrection is redeemed and restored work that will be meaningful, not cursed, and fruitful, always.

"Far as the curse is found"—his blessings flood wherever the curse is found, not the least is your job.

Warmly, Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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GOD THE FATHER CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

Preparation for Worship & Communion

CHOOSE

"You did not choose me, but I chose you."

-John 15:16

"The doctrine of predestination promotes humility, not arrogance; assurance, not apprehension; responsibility, not apathy; holiness, not complacency; and mission, not privilege."

–John Stott

Ordinary Time

The Christian year, anchored in the main events of the New Testament, provides a pattern for understanding the Christian life. We are now in the season after Pentecost, known as "Ordinary Time." Having celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost, Ordinary Time signals the interim of the Church until Christ comes again in glory. Jesus is faithfully advancing His Kingdom in the power of His Spirit in this season. We anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in glory as King of all.

Call to Worship

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:1-2,16-17

The First Word

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

Invocation

Songs of Adoration

FATHER, LONG BEFORE CREATION

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." — Psalm 90:2

Text: Francis Johnson (1951)
Tune: Andrew Osenga
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- 1. Father, long before creation Thou hadst chosen us in love, And that love so deep, so moving, Draws us close to Christ above. Still it keeps us, still it keeps us. Firmly fixed in Christ alone.
- 2. Though the world may change its fashion, Yet our God is e'er the same; His compassion and His covenant Through all ages will remain. God's own children, God's own children Must forever praise His name.
- 3. God's compassion is my story, Is my boasting all the day; Mercy free and never failing Moves my will, directs my way. God so loved us, God so loved us That His only Son He gave.
- 4. Loving Father now before Thee We will ever praise Thy love, And our songs will sound unceasing 'Til we reach our home above, Giving glory, giving glory To our God and to the Lamb.

Welcome

Visitors, we are glad you are here. Following the service, please join Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.

OLD Testament Reading

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Ministry of Prayer

Offering

If you missed today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them. The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as "living sacrifices" to God (Rom. 12:1).

Song of Praise

PUT NOT YOUR HOPE IN THE NATION

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God." – Psalm 146:5

Wendell Kimbrough & Paul Zach © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough & Paul Zach Publishing Used by permission. CCLI # 708363 Put not your hope in the nation; Put not your hope in a king. Trust in the only one who opens eyes and sets the prisoner free.

He is the maker of heaven; He formed the earth and the sea. Our help will come from the Lord our God, our gracious king of peace.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! O my soul!

He is the hope of the hungry; He is the Lord of the feast. Our Father's house always opens wide to welcome refugees.

The fatherless find a Father; The widow rests in His strength. The heart of God is forever home to all the poor and weak.

CHILDRen's Message (10:30 AM)

Scripture Reading

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last."

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at wepc.org/sermons.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Mark 14:16-25

The disciples prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve. And they were reclining at the table and as they were eating, He took bread. And after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Prayer of Confession

Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

Heavenly Father, we come before You confessing our sins: thoughts that are not like Your thoughts, selfish desires and evil passions, and their godless fruit—cruel words and unjust acts. Keep us, Lord, from pride and arrogance, and from scornful judgment of others. Keep us, Lord, from worshipping the blessings that You have given us. Keep us, Lord, from trusting in anything except Your grace. Jesus, You know our temptations and struggles first hand. Show sinners Your abounding grace, that we may seek Your righteousness by faith, and that we may wonder at redeeming love. We are Your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, strengthen Your Church by Your Holy Spirit to walk with You in the joy of liberty.

Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement

II Timothy 1:9

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

THE Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heartidols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings. All bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.

Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.

Songs of Response to God's Grace

JESUS, I COME

"Out of the depths, I call to you, Lord! – Psalm 130:1

Text: William T. Sleeper (1887)
Tune: Greg Thompson
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- 1. Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come. Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth, Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.
- 2. Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storms and into Thy calm, Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.
- 3. Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above, Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.
- 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee. Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN

1. Your labor is not in vain though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained Your planting and reaping are never the same But your labor is not in vain.

For I am with you, I am with you. I am with you, I am with you For I have called you, called you by name
Your labor is not in vain.

- 2. Your labor is not unknown though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.

 The place of your toil may not seem like a home but your labor is not unknown.
- 3. The vineyards you plant will bear fruit the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth, for all that is old will at last be made new: the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.
- 4. The houses you labored to build will finally with laughter and joy be filled. The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed and all that is broken be healed.

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

- I Corinthians 15:58

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GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

"Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." -Romans 5:20

> Julia H. Johnston (1911) Tune: MOODY (Towner)

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

> Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!

- 2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, Threaten the soul with infinite loss; Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.
- 3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide; What can we do to wash it away? Look! There is flowing a crimson Tide, Brighter than snow you may be today.
- 4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on all who believe! You that are longing to see His face, Will you this moment His grace receive?

Doxology



"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." - Psalm 150:6

Text: Thomas Ken (1709) Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (Bourgeois, 1551)

What does "doxology" mean? It's a word derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature

Benediction

The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon.

WEPC Elder Richard Campbell led worship.

Pastor Joe Brown gave the Children's Message.

Music was led by **Worship Arts Directors Taylor Barnett and Tiffanie Chan,** along with Robin Huff, Jill Wiebe-King, Tyler Pease, Karl Kuder, and Luke Smith.