



Prayer Concerns: Herb Weyer; JoAnn McGregor; Betty Schofield; Tessa Coburn in the passing of her grandfather.

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by the Cagle Family to the glory of God in memory of Chris, son & brother.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Additional Music provided by Marilyn Governor.

Ushers April 22: Eric Eades, John Oberhelman, Ronnie Pursley, Chuck Taylor, Thornton Patberg (balcony)

Ushers April 29: Greg and Linda Stilwell, Jacque Hardin, Chuck Taylor, Thornton Patberg (balcony)

Greeters April 22: Sue & Cle Watson, Tom Harvey, Skip Borre

Greeters April 29: Pat & Ken Haynie, Tom Harvey, Cara Bolin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

piano

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Now The Green Blade Rises" arr. by M. Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear the good news, Christ is risen from the dead! Life has been transformed.

People: **God is active in our world. God brings hope and healing each day.**

Leader: Hear the call of God; we are invited to community. We are called to see beyond ourselves, and to join in loving care for all.

People: **We accept God's call, and we rejoice in the gift of community.**

CHORAL INTROIT

"Breathe on me Breath of God"

*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

*HYMN #304

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Please turn to those around you and pass the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Marilyn Governor

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Let us pray as one.

EARTH DAY PRAYER

All: **Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen; You placed us in Creation, and You commanded us to care for it. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty for granted, have mercy upon us. Give us grateful hearts that revel in Your green earth. And now, O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'"

GIVING TITHES & OFFERING

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" arr. by W. Held

*DOXOLOGY *The congregation stands as the Ushers return the offering to the Altar.*

#95 in Hymnal

ANTHEM

"My Eternal King" by Jane Marshall

KIDZ MOMENT

Noisy Offering

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 15:25-32

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.' ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.' ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

MESSAGE by Pastor Andy Payton

"Helper"

Good morning. Good morning Methodist Temple. It is good to be with you this day. It's good to be with you in this space. But more than anything else it is good to know that God is with us. One of the things I hope you're continuing to do is watch for glory sightings. And yesterday I did have a glory sighting. Yesterday our church hosted the United Methodist Women gathering for all of the Southwest Districts. All of the churches in this corner of the state, all the United Methodist churches in this quarter the state, all day United Methodist Women were invited to come in to be with us. And we had like 80 participants yesterday here at the church as a part of the United Methodist Women gathering. Now the thing that I learned as I was there was this: did you know that the United Methodist Women is the largest women's organization in the world today? I didn't know that. How cool is that? That the United Methodist Women, a group that's a part of our own tradition the denomination, is the world's largest service organization Mission organization that is a part of the world today for women. That is awesome. So United Methodist Women, thank you. And thank you for giving me a glory sighting yesterday. God bless you.

Well today we're continuing our sermon series on risen, and it comes from this idea that we find ourselves in the Easter season. And Easter is not just one Sunday, it's like 50 days. It's a whole season within the Christian year. And so we have chosen risen as our theme, and the idea is quite simple. We as Christians are called to rise to new life in Christ during this Easter season. Specifically I think the way we do this is we seek to remove those fixations within our lives that keep God's love from flowing freely through us. Let me say it again, the way that we rise to new life in Christ as we seek to remove those fixations within our lives that keep God's love from flowing freely through us. And the way we're doing that this Easter season is we're taking a look at an ancient spirituality text called the Enneagram; and what the Enneagram does is it helps us to find our motivations. It helps us discover our fixations. It helps us to see those things that keep us from embodying everything that God has created us to become. Today our theme is Performer, and I think more than anything else what the performers, and what some would call the achievers, of the world can teach us and remind us is this: that image is not everything. Instead, identity is. image is not everything, but instead identity is.

As we get started this morning. Let's begin with a moment of prayer. Help us to be present to you today, Oh God, even as you're here present with us. I pray that you would take the words in my mouth and the meditations of all of our hearts and that you would help them to be made acceptable in your sight. I pray this through Christ our rock and redeemer Amen.

So just moments ago you heard a section from one of Jesus's most famous parables- the parable of the prodigal son. Now if you've ever read the prodigal son, and I'm sure you have, you'll notice that the product local is a very long parable; and so, I just took a section of the prodigal son story- and specifically we took a look at the part where it talks about the elder brother. Now true confession from Pastor Andy, I'm the elder brother and our family. Literally I'm the oldest, so I have an affinity towards the elder brother so I pick my favorite part to talk about. So you'll have to please forgive me. I get this person within the story of the Prodigal Son. And of course the older brother gets mad doesn't he? Yes, the older brother gets angry, and the reason why the older brother gets angry and mad is because he has been faithful, faithful faithful. He has done the right thing, the right thing, the right thing; and his brother, the prodigal, has been bad, bad, bad and has done the wrong thing, the wrong thing, the wrong thing. I'm glad my brother is not going to hear this message today. It would not be a good thing. I mean Jesus knows my family I guess. The younger brother comes home, and dad throws him a big party. The older brother gets mad because the younger brother gets the party and the older brother does not; and it leads to probably one of my favorite interchanges within all of the Gospels. The dad goes out to the older brother, and the older brother voices his anger to the dad; and the dad responds with this wonderful phrase: Son you have been with me always, and all that I had belongs to you. All that I have is already yours.

This moment within the scripture, friends, is probably, in my mind, one of the most powerful reminders of why we live the holy life, why we live the faithful life. We live the holy and the faithful life not to earn the admiration of God, or dad if you will, God our parent if you will, but instead we live the holy life, lived a faithful life, we say yes to God because God has already said yes to us. And that's why I think this is probably one of Jesus's most powerful parables, one of his most popular parables because it speaks this truth that we all desperately need to hear and be reminded of again and again and again.

The other reason why I chose the elder brother part of the story is because I believe the elder brother is a performer, a type 3 performer on the Enneagram- hence the theme performer today. And let me just talk to you a little bit about the characteristics of the performer/ achiever/ type 3 on the Enneagram. The first thing I would say about the performers of the world is this: the performers of the world are success driven. The performers of the world are those people that are the top of the class; the performers of the world are those people that are the president of the the class the performers of the world are usually- I don't know if that's true for the elder brother in the prodigal story but it's true for a lot of that type three folks- is that they're overly optimistic and they're charismatic and people kind of look up to them. Next characteristic about the performer, they're all about winning. If the performer had a monitor it would be second place is first loser. That's the performer's mantra; and not only do they want to win, friends, they get bonus points if they look good while they're doing it. They're performing; they're the achiever. They are task driven. Performers, as the name suggests, want to get things done; and typically they're very efficient at doing it. They want to perform. They want to get it done.

Now a healthy performer is a visionary leader. A healthy performer can take an organization, or a church to places that they have never dreamed that they could ever go. I think maybe a visionary performer, kind of a modern example of the performer, within the church at least is Pastor Adam Hamilton. We've all probably read one of Adam Hamilton's books. He's a pastor of a United Methodist Church in Kansas City -Leawood, Kansas- specifically; and they have like 22,000 members. Pastor Adam Hamilton is in my mind a Type 3 wing 3 performer. He is- Oh my gosh- over the top in his ability to be a visionary leader, to be successful, to be a winner. All these kinds of things. He is the prototype of the type of leaders that people look up to. In a healthy space, a performer is a visionary leader.

In an unhealthy space, a performer is a workaholic. And they become so task driven that they fail to be present to the emotions of other people and present to their own emotions, which is why many of the people who are type three performers have struggles with long term relationships. They're so driven by the task, they are so driven to when; they're so driven to get it done that they really are not in touch with their emotions or the emotions of other people because they're just wanting to succeed, and they become workaholics. And they work, work, work, work in order to perform, perform, perform. Finally, an unhealthy performer can become sort of like a chameleon. And by that I mean they can try to become all things to all people in order to try to win them over. These are these real charismatic types that can can change on a dime to win the crowd. And in doing so, the problem is this: as they change on a dime to win the crowd and as they change to win people over, they began to lose a sense of themselves, and they forget who they truly are because they're too busy trying to become like everyone else to win them over.

Their sin, if they had one, this primal sin would be deceit. They deceive themselves into thinking they are someone that they are really not. Now the person I think of when I think of this camelon thing is a famous tennis star from the early 1990s. Do you guys remember the 90s? It was a wonderful time. I wish we could rewind to go back there because that's what I grew up, and all great things came from the 90s. And as far as I'm concerned, on December 31, 1999, all great music stopped. I don't even know. I don't even listen to radio anymore. All you need is the 90s right? All you need is a 90's, and one of the things we had in the 90s was Andre Agassi. I mean look at this guy- the flowing, the eyeglasses, the image is everything type of guy. There is a commercial for Andre Agassi from like 1991. He did a commercial for Canon Rebel cameras. I don't know if you remember this or not but they used to sell cameras. You know? Right before there were cell phones, they had these things called cameras. They are these black devices with lenses on them- you remember? So he did a commercial for Canon cameras, and it shows him cruising up in a white Lamborghini and he gets out with his- look at that hair, I mean wow. Next slide you'll even get a better sense will you. Woo. How could you not like this guy- He gets out and he pulls down his sunglasses and he looks at the camera and he says image is everything. How I look. What I have. What I do is everything. And I think they captured the mantra for our society and our time in that moment. Image is everything. Now what's fascinating about Andre Agassi is after he retired from tennis he wrote a book called Open. And it was kind of a memoir of his life, and one of the things that people were shocked to hear about tennis star, legend Andre Agassi is he said I hate tennis. I hate tennis. From the moment I picked up my racquet to the moment I put it down, I hate tennis. And the reason why I played tennis, he said, was because I had a dad who could not distinguish between his love for tennis and his love for me. Andre Agassi became the performer to win the love of his dad.

And I think more than anything else, the reason why the performer performs, friends, is this: they have mistaken people's admiration for love. They have mistaken people's admiration for true love. And if I could give one message to the performer types in the world today it would be this message. We are more than what we do. We are more than what we do, and that image is not everything. But what's most important and what really makes us valuable is our identity. And our truest identity is that we are again wanted to become all things to all people. We were loved by God to all eternity. We don't have to earn the admiration of others to earn love. We don't have to do. We don't want to become all things to all people. We don't have to do any of this stuff. We all are already admired and loved by God. What makes us valuable is who we are. And who we are is really more to the point. It's about whose we are. And we are a beloved child of God.

Now one person who's taught me this in my own life- that were valuable not because of what we do but because of who we are is my aunt Leslie. Not my wife Leslie. My wife Leslie wonderful, but my aunt Leslie. This is a this is a picture of my peeps. This is a picture my family. These are all my people. My grandpa- pops- you know I was talking about him and quoting him. He's in the middle, the colonel holding it all together. Below him are my parents dogs, and they're showing their best selves to us in this photo. Yeah. There's me on I guess would be your right my left. There's my beautiful daughter Jayden and my beautiful wife Leslie. And that's Paige. That is Paige in the middle.

On the back row is my aunt Leslie, and you can see her all excited that she's clapping. So here's Aunt Leslie's story. My aunt Leslie was born in the 1950s. She had heart defects. She had a cleft palate; she couldn't walk. They said she'd never walk. At which point my grandmother the person right next to her just knew that God was going to perform this miracle for my aunt Lesley, and it was going to heal her and fix her so she could be like all other girls and do what all other girls did. So they took her to a prayer meeting after a prayer meeting after prayer meeting, and they prayed over Aunt Leslie that a miracle happen and she'd become like everyone else. And friends of miracle did happen. She didn't become like everyone else, but she became Aunt Leslie. And they've got these braces where she could walk; she learned to walk. They fixed her heart. The doctor said she she wouldn't live past her teenage years, but she lived. And she comes every holiday now to our house. And her big thing is she loves to lead us in singing happy birthday. She gets all fired up and leads us in happy birthday before everyone is even ready to sing happy birthday. She sings Happy Birthday because deep down Leslie just wants to eat the cake. And that's a good thing, right? I mean rock on.

In fact, when I was never left our house since the 1950s because of Aunt Leslie. She gets excited about Santa Claus and about Christmas every year. The fact, when I was younger and I was serving in smaller churches, and we didn't have Christmas Eve services, my task that I was given by my grandparents was to take Aunt Leslie to the midnight service somewhere else so I could keep her up all night and then she would sleep and not wake my grandmother up at 2:00 o'clock in the morning so Santa Claus can come. When she was born, she was born in Kentucky; but they took her to Kansas because there was a special school in Kansas. It was in Kansas that my mom and dad met, and it's because of Leslie I guess you could say that I exist. She's valuable. She's valuable, and the truth of the matter is, she's valuable really not because of all the things she did but because of who she is. She's exactly who God has created her to be. There's a Jewish theologian has this wonderful phrase, and that phrase is this that human beings are the very language of God. It is through us that God speaks loud and clear. And let me tell you something about Aunt Leslie. God speaks through her every day, and she don't even know. And it still happens. And let me tell you something. God speaks through you every day. And you know probably don't know every day. And what makes you valuable, what makes you important, it's not because you did anything at all but because you're exactly who God has made you and me to be.

Here's what I'm worried about in our society today. I'm frightened. by the reality that we have lost the sense of every person's inherent value. There's a lot of talk about what it is that is leading to the disintegration of our society today. And it's my opinion that what's leading to our disintegration today is that we have lost the inherent value of every person. What made America great was that we believed that every person is valuable, and it's tucked in all of our founding documents like those things said like every person has certain inalienable rights -like the pursuit of life liberty and happiness and things like that. And the founders of our country had this sense that each person was important now be fair. Originally it was kind of like the white men were the most important ones. But then we expanded it and it became African-Americans; and we expanded it and it became women; and we expanded it. I mean even today the debate is around LGBTQ, the unborn, but there's this idea that every person is valuable to materialism; it's led to consumerism. It's led to some of the violence in our society today, tribalism. It's eroding and achieve and win and be successful. It's led to. And I think we've lost it. Because I think what we think when we think in our ability to do and produce us alive because we have forgotten that what makes a person valuable is who they are- they're a human being- and not what they do. She must be excited about what I'm saying and it's good and it's good.

I worry about parents in our society, a society that has kind of bought into this mentality. And to be clear, I think we're a type 3 society. We're success driven and more about winning all of these things that I just talked about. That's us. That's United States; it's America. I think though we've lost it in the sense of parenting, I mean parents think about what we do with our kids. We take them to event after event after event. Why? We have to ask yourself, why do we do that? Is it because we think that to do and to perform is what makes us valuable? Is it about us as parents or is about our kid? That's something that parents need to wrestle with, I think. I think it also has affected the church.

When we think about what it means to be successful in ministry, the first thing we think about is not the transformation of lives and hearts, but the first thing we go to is the ABC of the ministry. The ABCs of ministry are attendance, Building & Cash. Paul didn't give that in the list of his fruits of the spirit. If I'm not mistaken Paul's list was like love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity.. all these things, but our first question as the church is how many people came. I'm guilty of it, too. And I think, I often think, what if our question became not how many people came but how many hearts were touched with the love of Christ. We would become contagious again in a good way in a good way.

And so here's my message for us. It's not just like there just one group of people called type three performers, but all of us because we live in a type 3 society; we're all affected by this. So here's my message. Be. Be what you are and know that you're valuable not because of what you did and take some time. To shut down all the voices of our culture that tell us more and more and more and more. Take some time just to listen to your own heart. Maybe ask yourself, what is it that I really want? What is it that I really need? Not what my culture tells me I really should want and not what my culture tells me I should really need, but what I really want? And what is it I really? And if I can give you a Bible verse it would be this: It's the meek that we inherit the earth, not the performer. Not the performer. You want to get everything that God already offers you. Be meek. Be humble. Know that you're a valuable. Period. Amen.

*LAST HYMN #261

"Lord of the Dance"

*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

BENEDICTION

"Gelobet Sei Gott" arr. by J. Leavitt

POSTLUDE