

# Loyalist

# BB&B

Traditional Worship • May 13

Prayer Concerns: Nancy Henry; John Keller in the passing of his mother.

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Jim & Karen Sights and family to the glory of God in honor of their son, Kyle; Joe & Theresa Webb to the glory of God in memory of our parents.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Anthem offered by the Men's Chorus; Men's Chorus directed by Mark Swiekart. Additional Music selections provided by the Temple Brass.

Ushers (13): Greg & Linda Stilwell, captains; Chuck Taylor, Jacque Hardin, Nelson & Joyce Rivers

Ushers (20): Eric Eades (captain), Seby Durgy, Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)

Greeters (13): Marty Van Stone, Wanda Erwin, Carla Bolin, Tom Harvey

Greeters (20): Warren & Rosemary Heinsohn, Janet Kissel, Tom Harvey

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** "Motet and Fugue" by Johannes Brahms arr. by Bernard Fitzgerald & "Hopak" by M. Moussorgsky arr. by James Mattered  
**WELCOME**  
**PRELUDE** "Earth and All Stars (Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen)" arr. by K. Kolander

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, people of God!

**People: Rejoice, the Lord has prepared a way for us.**

Leader: Do not worry about tomorrow,

**People: Because God is already there.**

Leader: Put your trust in the Lord.

**People: He will never permit the righteous to be moved.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT**

**\*HYMN UMH #92**

"Surely the Presence of the Lord" by Lanny Wolfe

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

### \*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

"Hymn To The Fallen" by John Williams arr. by Alan Fernie

### MOTHER'S DAY VIDEO

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Let us pray as one.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

**All: Lord of Life, give us peace that passes all understanding. Though we cannot know what will happen in days to come, help us to trust You. Remind us that You are neither asleep nor too busy to notice this world, but are present in all the cares of our lives. 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

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

"Prelude No. 11" George Gershwin arr. by Steven Gamble

**ANTHEM** "The Gift of Love" by Hal H. Hopson

### KIDZ MOMENT

### SCRIPTURE READING

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

John 3:1-3

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

### MESSAGE by Pastor Andy Payton

"Loyalist"

Well Happy Happy Happy Mother's Day everyone. I hear it's Mother's Day. I can't believe we're already here to Mother's Day. But I like to call it Mothering Day and not Mother's Day because in my mind Mother's Day is about the mothering love that we've all experienced in our lives. It's about the loyal and faithful love that we've experienced in our lives and certainly we tried to remember that in various ways this morning during our worship service from the glory sighting that I shared to the Men's Chorus who sang and even the bouquet up here is kind of a reflection of the mothering love of God. It's given in memory of Kyle Sights from his family this day. There are so many expressions of the mothering love of God- the mothering love that makes us who we are this day.

Well today we're going to continue our sermon series. Loyalist is the theme, and our series has been on the Enneagram. But I learned something this past week I've been pronouncing it wrong, which it's just not a big surprise to me. I'm from Loogootee, Indiana, and we pronounce a lot of things wrong. That's how we say that's how we are. So I was reading one of the resources about the Enneagram and I learned that it's not Enneagram it's Enneagram. So can you say that with me so we can practice so we don't sound like a bunch of hillbillies. It's my fault. Can you say Enneagram? You also like about scholars now; you've graduated. You're there. So the Enneagram is really an ancient spirituality test that has like nine different types. We've been going through it for the last month and a half and today type 6 on the Enneagram; and we're at type 6, the Loyalist. And I think what the Loyalist reminds us of the importance of loyal and faithful love. I think also what the loyalists can remind us of is the importance of moving from fear to faith. I think more than anything else what the loyalists can remind us of is the importance of moving from just serving our group to serving the common good of all. We're all talking more about that here in a minute. But before we do, let's begin with a word of prayer. Would you center yourselves? Would you pray with me? Help us to be present to you today. Oh God. Even as you are here present with us. We pray this through Christ. Amen.

So a few years ago there was a study done of a group of monkeys. I don't know what the official term is maybe it's a troupe of monkeys, a group of monkeys. So this group of monkeys lived in a tropical place in South America. It's one of those deep places within the jungle that many people have never been to before. Those kinds of places. And so the scientists began to study this group of monkeys and they begin to notice that within this group, within this group of monkeys there is one specific subgroup of the group that exhibited a profound amount of anxiety; and this subgroup within the group that exhibited a profound amount of anxiety sort of stayed at the fringes of the group while the other group was kind of having their party, doing their thing, eating their bananas, playing with each other. The anxious group was on the fringes and they were always monitoring the horizon, always looking out at the bushes. Well this group of scientists thought well that's kind of an odd behaviour so let's let's do something with this group and see what happens. And so they removed all the anxious monkeys. They took them away. And a year later they came back and they were wondering what happened to the group of monkeys after they took the anxious ones away, they let it go for a year, they went back and you know what they discovered- all the monkeys were dead. They were gone. Those anxious producing monkeys were a critical part of the troupe. They were the Loyalist of the bunch. I've got a picture of a monkey so I cannot stick with you. Can you put my picture of the monkey up? That monkey is an important monkey- the anxious monkey is an important monkey because the anxious monkeys that sat on the edge of the group were monitoring for danger to come so that the party could continue for all the rest of the monkeys.

Are you hearing me? Fifty percent of the human population is type 6, Loyalist; and praise God we have Loyalists around because they're the ones that protect us and keep us safe. They're the ones that, on a plane, you want them sitting beside the wing or the exit door because they know something's wrong before the pilot even knows something's wrong. They're that critically important. So let's talk a little bit about the loyalist of the world today. The loyalist are loyal, likable, and they are compassionate. That's what it says. Here's what the Loyalists do. When the loyalist of the world decide that they love you, when the loyalists of the world decide that they like you, they will be a loyal and they will love you mind, body, and heart to a fault. That's the loyalist of the world and in some ways one Mother's Day is kind of about. Next slide says that the loyalists of the world are reliable. They are reliable. In fact I think many people who go to churches are loyalist, and you can kind of know who the loyalist is within the churches because they'll stick around no matter what. Like if a pastor says something that they don't like, they don't leave. They stick around. They can be mad and let the pastor know that they didn't like what the pastor had to say. I've had this experience before but they won't quit. They won't quit. Because they're loyal. They won't give. They might be furious. They're just faithful, so that's who they are. The reason for this reliability is because they find security and it. They find security in it; and the reason why they're so loyal, so reliable, the reason why they won't give up is because by being loyal, they find safety in that. And this underlying drive for reliability, loyalty, finding security is because they're trying to alleviate- Here it is -their fear. Their root sin is fear, and so they find safety in being loyal to an external authority. They find safety in being loyal to an external authority. And that's why they won't quit because they're finding safety in that person, that group, that idea that is making them feel secure, making them feel safe.

A person once said that the life of a loyalist can be described in two different ways. They're usually in two different modes: they're either at your feet or at your throat. Next slide. At your feet or at your throat. So let's talk about your feet first. That's a nicer one right. So, when a loyalist is in their the at your feet mode, basically, we're talking about their willingness to align themselves with that external authority that makes them feel safe. So these are the people when they align themselves with the external authority many times these are the people who are big on the military. They find safety in that. They're big on not religion but dogmatic religion-it makes them feel safe. They can be big on political affiliations. It makes them feel safe. And so when I use a phrase at your feet, they kind of comply with this external authority no matter what, which goes to the next phase at your throat. If you're not in the group that they comply with. Look out Look out. So if you're not in their faith circle, you're another brand of faith, Look out, you're not in the political circle, you're in another political affiliation. Look out. You're not in the group that makes them feel safe. You're an outside group. Look out. They channel their fear towards the group that doesn't belong with the group that makes them feel safe. And loyalists kind of fluctuate between these two at your feet at your throat, and it has all to do with this kind of fear. They're trying to alleviate their fear.

Can be really honest with you this morning? I think our world is kind of fluctuating in this loyalistic type of mindset today. Religiously speaking, as nations we're doing this. When we get afraid, what do we do? We hunker down. We get dogmatic about what we think. We channel our fear towards the other and we try to destroy it. And then when we get in that mode, it can get dangerous. Really really dangerous. Kind of the very type of an unhealthy loyalist nation would be Nazi Germany. Think about it. The German people were afraid. They were going through a very, very difficult economic time and so- here it is -they were fearful, and so what happens Adolf Hitler rises in the midst of that and gives them a strong external authority that can make them feel safe. And what did Hitler do? He took all their fears and placed them on a group of people and said if we could just eliminate that group of people it will be OK. Now that's an extreme, extreme example. But it's subtly with us even to this day in a multitude of different ways.

What we need is conversion. What the loyalists need and what we all need is conversion. And for the loyalists, conversion basically means we move from fear to faith. To say it another way, the conversion for the loyalists of the world moves from aligning themselves with an external authority to what I would like to call a transcendent authority- God. Not a dogma. Not an external dogma, but faith in a transcendent God; and in that moment when the Loyalist shifts from that fear mode to the external authority to faith in God, all other loyal faith, all this stuff that they put their energy in terms of external authority goes to this God and they begin to realize that they are safe, that they stand on a rock, and this rock is the Almighty God. I used the word transcendent because this God transcends our understanding. This God transcends our gifts. This God transcends our problems. And when the loyalists of the world can have faith in God in this sort of way, it changes everything for them. It changes everything for them. And the biggest transformation that we find when they begin to find faith in this sort of God is, rather than seeking the good of the group, they begin to seek the good of all because they see this God in all. It's a transcendent authority. And boy I think we need this type of conversion today.

We need this type of conversion today in churches because what a lot of us have called religion is really just masking our fears. And we really haven't come to this place where we trust in a God that's more than us all. I can see this in United Methodism. For the last 30 years, you know what we've done is Methodist-our churches weren't as big as they used to be- you know we started to do: we hunkered down. We did study after study. We came up with committee after committee to solve our theological problems, and we're doing it today even this day. Well we know what to do? Let's come up with a committee. That'll fix it! That's the Methodist way. And in doing so here's what we've done. We've mistaken the container for the content. All our beliefs are not it. They just point to it, and it that our beliefs point to is a God that is bigger than us all, that lives within each of us, that lives within my heart and your heart, but transcends our little groups. And once we start to see that God, it changes everything. Our loyalty shifts from our little club to a God that's worthy of our worship.

You can see in the Apostle Paul; he's a prototype of this. Think about it. He was the Pharisee. Right? You don't get any more external authority based than a Pharisee. That's Paul. And he had a moment, an experience with God where he saw Jesus in the very group that he was after; He saw God in the very group that he was after. And when he came out of that moment, he said I's not I but Christ. It's not my little group anymore; it's Christ. The story of Nikodemus; it's a story we just heard. We just listened to that one. I love the story of Nikodemus. He's a Pharisee too. You don't get anymore external authority based than Nikodemus. John's very clear about this. Nikodemus is a leader in the Jews. Nikodemus is a Pharisee. Pharisees made a promise to keep all the laws, and their motivation for keeping all the laws in the Hebrew Bible,- Laws like in the book of Leviticus that if you've ever read Leviticus at night you'll go to sleep within my two chapters. It's like oh my gosh. Can't eat this. Can't touch that. Can't go there. Can't be with them. It goes on and on and on. -They made a promise to keep all those laws. And here's why they did because they felt like if they could live up to them then God wouldn't go get them any more; they would be safe. So here's this Nikodemus who comes to Jesus by night, which tells me that he's motivated by fear. You've heard Jesus tell him? He tries to move him from his from fear to faith; and he says Nikodemus, you'll never see the kingdom of God unless you've been born from above. He'll never see it unless you move from your fear to faith. And he goes on, the story continues in my favorite verse and chapter 3 of John, is Nikodemus, God sent me not to condemn the world- don't be afraid of God- but to love the world. He's inviting Nikodemus to see differently, to see a loving God and to realize that you can trust that loving god.

Probably the clearest example of this transformation is our own John Wesley and I just did it. I brought John Wesley into this. Father John. Here we go. John Wesley was as religious as his religious gets in the first half of his life. He went on union trips. He was an ordained priest. He went to Georgia, and then he got in trouble because he wouldn't serve a girl communion because he had this crush on her, and he got mad and wouldn't serve her communion. People got mad about that. I don't know... People get mad I guess when you don't serve them communion. But he comes home and he realizes what he has, it's just religion. After that, he has his moment of faith, and on May the 24, 1738 it says he went to the society on Aldersgate Street and he felt his heart strangely warmed; and he felt that God really did love him. And we know that he truly had faith because the fruits of his life began to change as a result of that moment. He went from a loyalist to an external religious authority to the loyalists to the one God who loved him; and he carried that loyalty to the most vulnerable of his society. Even to the point that the first preaching house that the Methodist built- they called them preaching houses he had to start building preaching houses because they wouldn't let him preaching the regular churches anymore- the first preaching house he built was one of the biggest slave towns in England. And he built it in such a way that there was literally a wall between where the pastor was going to stand and where the people were. And he built that in such a way, because he knew that when he got up there and started preaching against slavery that people are going to throw things at him, come after him, be angry with him. And so he built a wall so it would give him a little time and they would have a fast get away exit out the back of the church. Holy cow! Where's that type of faith today? Where's that at? Here we are hunkered down behind our religion and our little groups or little clubs. And we don't see the God that lives in the most vulnerable. That's sad.

The other thing about May 24 is it's my wedding anniversary. My horrible joke is this, and I tell this every year at this time. So laugh at my joke, but I get to I want to tell because I like to tell it. John Wesley's heart was strangely warmed on May 24, 1738. Leslie my wife's heart was strangely warmed when she married me on May 24, 2008. Right honey? She's like Andy you're an idiot. And so that means that in a couple of weeks we're coming up on our ten year anniversary. I have a picture of my wife Leslie. Oh I'm married up. I know. She didn't know what she's getting into. That's Paige. My wife Leslie is a loyalist, type 6. So it's like a 6, wing 6 Loyalist. And I didn't know it at the time but when we first met she really showed and reflected God's loyal and faithful love, and this is the way that she did it. In the year 2000, so that's seven years before Leslie and I met, in the year 2000 when I had a baby girl named Jayden. She's 17 years old now. She just went to junior prom. That's weird. In the year 2000, I had a girl named Jayden and because of her birth, I became a Christian. I was a heathen; I was like a heathen wing heathen at that point in my life. I was a pastor's kid and I had was one of the pastor's kids that has gone astray. But I realized that when Jaden was born, I needed to change my life and God used that. And so as a result of my life change, I end up becoming a pastor which is the very thing I always told myself I wouldn't do ever. Pastor's kid we know. People say why do you choose to be a pastor? I'm like I didn't choose to be a pastor. God chose me. I would not have chosen this; God chose me. I really believe that.

So here I am. By the year 2004, now here I am, I'm a a pastor. I'm 24 years old and I have a girl who is four years old, which makes it really hard to date. It does. A lot of girls at 24 years old, this just in are not interested in dating pastors. They're not interested in dating. And this just in, a lot of Christian girls are not interested in dating a 24 year old guy with the kid. It's true. But I went to a wedding rehearsal. Fast forward now 2007. The fall of 2007, I go to a wedding rehearsal and there's Leslie. She's singing and I'm doing her cousin's wedding. And the first thing in my mouth was whoa. She'd make a good Methodist. And her grandma was like in earshot to me and she asked she's a Baptist. And I said well we'll take them too. So we were off to a great start. And so I don't know how she agreed to go on a date with me. I asked her out, and she agreed to end date with me. But I knew that I knew she was the one when she treated my daughter like she was a part of us, not as a problem but as a part of our family, as part of us. That's the loyal and faithful love that the loyalists are just into the group to represent. And they reflect that, when we reflect that, we love that which is the best about us. Mother's Day is not a day just for mothers. It's a day for all of us. It's a day that we, we celebrate the mothering love of God that we all are called to reflect and represent. And the way that we do this, the way we find the courage to do this is we move from fear to faith. We're not just loyal to our group, a little that's not a bad thing, but we're loyal to the God that lives within everyone.

And so I'm a little practice and then I'm going to be quiet. This week, when you find yourself becoming afraid or anxious, remember this prayer. It comes from Julian of Norwich, one of the earliest women writers, female writers we have Julian in Norwich. Her prayer is this All will be well. The whole prayer is All will be well. All will be well. All manner of things will be well. But I'll just give you this one. All will be well. That's the faith. That's the faith that rose Jesus from the dead. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, then God can be with us and get us through anything that we find ourselves facing. That's the faith that moves us from fear to faith. That's the one, that's the prayer. When you find yourself being afraid and anxious, pray that prayer. All will be well. When that prayer becomes a part of your heart, you'll know it's a part of your heart when you start to live for the well-being of everyone. When it's really in you, it will be wherever you go. And as you touch people with that sort of love, it will change things. Amen.

### \*LAST HYMN UMH #695

"O Lord, May Church and Home Combine"

### \*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

### BENEDICTION

"Finale" by J. Correll

### POSTLUDE