

# Challenger

# B.I.S.G.

## Traditional Worship • May 20

Prayer Concerns: Brenda Jeffries; the Helen Elzer Family in the passing of her husband, Donald.

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Barbara Waite to the glory of God in memory of Thomasine Waite & Josephine Culley.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Additional Music provided by Candace & Art Adye.

Ushers (27): Eric Eades, captain; Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, John Oberhelman, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)

Greeters (27): Sue & Cle Watson, Pat & Ken Haynie

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Candace Adye, piano

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

"For All The Saints" by R. Hobby

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In ancient days, the Lord God sent prophets to teach and challenge the people.

People: **Thank you, Lord, for all Your prophets!**

Leader: Today, God continues to send prophets to proclaim the good news of love, reconciliation, and justice.

People: **Holy Spirit, give us ears to hear when You are still speaking.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

### \*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

### \*FIRST HYMN #64

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

### MEMORIAL DAY VIDEO

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Store Gut" ( How Great Thou Art), Swedish Hymn

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray as one.

### PASTORAL PRAYER/ LORD'S PRAYER

did not know You were there. Teach us to trust Your leading; to trust Your power and not our own. And now, O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...

### GIVING OFFERING

"Come, Join The Dance Of Trinity" by R. Rowland-Raybold

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

#95 in Hymnal

### ANTHEM

"Homeward Bound" by Keen/Althouse

### KIDZ MOMENT

### SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

### MESSAGE by Pastor JillAnn Knonenborg

"Challenger"

Good morning.

I'd like to offer my personal thanks that you are here on this highest of holy days.

It's the most important Sunday of the year, in my opinion. I am, of course, referring to the Indy 500; and I'm wearing my checkered flag dress for the occasion. The Indy 500 is a huge tradition in my family. It's one of our favorite days of the year; and, it is- I want you to know- a tremendous expression of my love for all of you that I am here right now instead of listening to the start of the race which is approximately three and a half minutes.

Will you pray with me? Gracious God as I strive to deliver your message this morning may you increase and we decrease. For it is written that only in giving up our lives will we find them.

So today we are winding down on a series that we started all the way back in Easter. Man that seems like a long time ago. It's our Risen series in which we're using a spiritual tool called the Enneagram to learn more about who we are in light of who God created us to be. The Enneagram is a little bit different than other tests or spiritual tools because it's all about our motivation in life, about telling us why we do the things we do rather than necessarily what we do. So even though each week we've been focusing on a single type 1 through 9 on the Enneagram, I've really enjoyed learning lessons from each type. Not just for my own sake but also because it's helped me to better understand people who I call my brothers and sisters in faith.

So today we have arrived at type 8 which is known as the Challenger or the Protector, and they are probably the easiest type to identify just by looking at them. It's not a sure fire thing, but usually you can tell an 8 by their posture. An author said that eights do not occupy space, they colonize it. They are so confident and they have this intense energy about everything they do everywhere that they go. And this often gets read as anger. We'll get to that in just a second. The eight's dominant motivation- the thing that makes an eight- is that they want to assert their strength in order to avoid appearing weak or vulnerable. And so their easiest emotion, as I said, is anger. But it's a defense mechanism- sort of puffing yourself up so that no one gets too close. Eights have learned that we are in a dog eat dog eat or be eaten kind of world. You're either a predator or you're prey. So if my choice is between being the cheetah or being the gazelle, I'll be the cheetah thank you very much. However, eights might decide that their prey, their gazelle as it were, is going to be poverty, racism, sexism, mental illness, corporate greed. They are aware deeply that this kind of world is unfair, and so they want to make it a little bit better place for those who have to be prey.

Next slide please. As you might have sensed, eights are people of incredible conviction, and for that reason if you are negotiating with an eight, immediately compromising or appeasing them- you don't want to go there at least not right away- because they want to know that you care that you believe in what you claim is important to you. Equivocation is weakness. It means that you'll do anything to get ahead. No one hates smoozing more than an 8. Even if they're the one who's being buttered up, they see it as manipulative. And in case you haven't figured this one out yet, eights can be a bit prone to getting into conflict, intense disagreement we'll say. But where other types see conflict, eights see intimacy because it's where fire meets fire. The people are tested. It's where you see what somebody is really made of. So eights don't describe themselves as angry. They really don't feel that way. They see themselves as honest, no nonsense, no drama. It would be disrespectful, insulting to coddle you. You're stronger than that. As an aside, it is because eights are so assertive that women who are eights often get labeled as twos. You might recall we did twos a few weeks ago. They're called nurturers or helpers. Our society has ridiculous standards for both men and women, and so women who are eights often get labelled as twos because we don't want you to be an assertive aggressive leader, but it's totally fine if you just want to care about people. Whereas men who are twos often get labelled as eights because it's fine for a man to protect those who are weak, but you wouldn't want to be gentle. No that would be pathetic.

We haven't talked about this a whole lot during her sermon series. We've encouraged you to take the free Enneagram test through our website and I hope you've done that. But I have a confession to make. That test is only accurate about 60 percent of the time, and the main reason for that is because it is very difficult to separate who we are from who we think we're supposed to be. One of the reasons why Pastor Andy and I thought it was so important to do this Enneagram test in light of Easter and Pentecost- the seasons where the Holy Spirit is calling us into new life- was because it is a time for us to strip away the labels that the world puts on us and live into who we were made to be in Jesus Christ. Sorry I had a moment there. Moving on.

Next slide please. Eights for better or worse have the incredible gift through their natural leadership to change their neighborhoods, their communities, and the world. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an 8, and one of his quotes that I love is just the epitome of eight-ness. He said, "A man who will not die for something is not fit to live." Conviction and courage. Healthy eights will channel their anger to serve and protect others rather than their own egos. And they're not afraid of pleasing anybody along the way. They will throw themselves into it whole hog. Joseph Stalin was also an eight; unhealthy eights are dangerous. They're bullies who don't feel empathy for those who are weaker than them. And I think that the difference between a healthy eight and an unhealthy eight is revealed to us in our scripture today.

Next slide please. A healthy eight realizes that true courage, real strength means being unafraid of the thing that terrifies them the most. Being vulnerable. You may have heard a stance that we can choose or not choose to take in our life. It means being willing to risk hurt to experience the fullness of love. You'll remember that's psychologist Berne Brown's Ted Talk on vulnerability. If you haven't, I cannot urge you to do so enough. It changed my life, that's for sure. And one of the things that she says that Ted Talk is that we cannot selectively numb. We can either experience the really tough stuff, real pain in its fullness and also experience true joy and happiness and gratitude. Or we can push it all away. We can't just ignore or push aside, disrealize ourselves from the hard things. It's all or nothing. Eights know all or nothing very well.

Next slide please. The armor that we have here is the Ephesians would be describing. Ephesus was a church very much afraid of becoming prey, of being that gazelle in the photo from earlier. They were afraid of coming persecution from the Roman Empire because they refused to worship Caesar alongside Jesus. They refused to equivocate on what they believed. Their kind of eight church. And so the writer of the Ephesians, who is either St. Paul or a student of St. Paul but I'll just say Paul, the writer of the Ephesians uses this militaristic language because the Ephesians are ready to stand up and fight. We're not going to take this sitting down. And Paul says absolutely. Don't give up on what you believe. Do not give up on the truth. But the point of doing that is not to wipe away your enemies; it is to spread and live in to the gospel of peace. The good news of peace and this peace that Paul talks about is not just the absence of conflict. Eights know that conflict can be done with a peaceful heart and with good loving intention. This peace is the presence of those attributes that Paul talks about righteousness, faith, truth, and self sacrificing love. We get into trouble when we think that putting on armor, putting on our own armor will protect us because our power is finite. We were made small. There's nothing wrong with that but the scripture tells us that we will confront evil, and that evil is bigger than any single one of us, but here's the good news. God is bigger than the evil. And so what we need to do is not put on our own strength, our own power. We need to admit that we are vulnerable, and that we need God's help and God will give us God's own armor. And that will be the source of our power. Even then though, the strength and power that God offers is not the world strength and power, it's not brute force.

Next slide please. In Verse 17 from the passage we just heard, Paul references the Word of God. Usually when we say the word of God we think about the Bible but that can't be what Paul's talking about because the New Testament doesn't even exist at this point. The word of God that Paul is referencing is nothing less than Jesus Christ himself, and the sword that Jesus carries is truth, friendship, and love- a love that is willing to become weak, to go from being the most powerful being force in the universe to one of us for the sake of every one of us here and out there. In the garden, when they came to arrest Jesus, one of his disciples trying to protect him took out a sword and cut off the ear of the High Priest slave. Jesus said enough. Put away your sword and take up your cross for the sake of others. Anybody can use control or at least try to you. Anybody can force their will on others. Only God's power can bring the gospel of peace. Only God's power gives up for others. That's what real power looks like. Knowing that no matter where we go or what we confront, God is with us in life and in death. So the question becomes- not just for eights but for all of us -are you brave enough to let God in.

Next slide please. Thank you. And this isn't something that we're just going to decide right here during eleven o'clock worship on Memorial Day weekend. This is a question that we have to ask ourselves every day. It's something we choose together- the grace of God with us and it's something we live to practice, get better at. And so. There is a prayer that I'm going to ask us to pray together- I hope it's going to be big enough on the screen, maybe- which helps us to rehearse practice this attitude of openness to God. Please join me if you can read it. Dear God I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will. Rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing. Put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you. Exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full. Let me be empty. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. Amen.

That prayer was written by John Wesley who founded the entire Methodist movement. He was probably an eight by my guess. He saw a broken religious system and demanded justice for those that had been marginalized by it. But he was only able to do that once he realized that it wasn't by his own power that he would have the strength and the courage to do so. He had become weak like Jesus, open himself up to God's call on his life and say do with me what you will. Here I am. Your servant is listening. And that is when God can fill us up.

Thank you to the eights. You teach us so much about who God is and who God calls us to be. By the way that eights are so often led to protect those who are most in trouble, by the way the nothing halfheartedly. They do it all the way or not at all. And that's how our faith ought to be. We discover to say God do with me what you will because I know that you are enough and you go with me. Amen.

### MESSAGE by Pastor JillAnn Knonenborg

"Challenger"

### \*LAST HYMN UMH #428

"For the Healing of the Nations"

### GUATEMALA TEAM BLESSING & SEND-OFF

### \*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

"The Church's One Foundation" arr. D. Cherwien