

BODY • HEART • MIND

Traditional Worship • June 24

- Prayer Concerns: Barbara Ancona
- Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Ken & Linda Hay to the glory of God in memory of their 48th wedding anniversary.
- Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite. Anthem flutist, Lisa McCarty. Special Music provided by Vacation Bible School students.
- Ushers (24): Eric Eades, captain; Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, John Oberhelman, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)
- Greeters (24): Sue & Cle Watson, Pat Haynie, Tom Harvey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

congregational hymns

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"The Solid Rock" arr. by A. L. Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Worship the Lord your God with all your heart."

People: **We will worship God with all of our hearts.**

Leader: "Worship the Lord your God with all your mind."

People: **We will worship God with all of our minds.**

Leader: "Worship the Lord your God with all your spirit."

People: **We will worship God with all our being. Praise the Lord!**

CHORAL INTROIT

"All That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord" by Clausen

*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

*FIRST HYMN #66

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Vacation Bible School

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

MISSIONARY REPORT

GIVING OFFERING

"Our Father in Heaven" by A. Foote

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

#95 in Hymnal

ANTHEM

"My Jesus, I Love Thee" arr. by Paul Sjolund

KDZ MOMENT

Noisy Offering

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8: 30-35

³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

MESSAGE *by Pastor Andy Payton*

"Mind"

Well good morning Methodist Temple. It is good to see everyone here this day. I had a person once tell me when it came to preaching there were three rules: be brief, be bright, be done. Those are the three rules. If you want to be a great preacher, my mentor told me be brief, be bright, be done. Well I find myself in one of those scenarios this morning. I'm going to be brief. I'm going to try to be bright, and I'm going to be done and we're going to be done by 9:40 a.m. All right, that's ten minutes over, so I need to ask your forgiveness beforehand. I know you're all a bunch of Methodists, and it's hard whenever we go over an hour. I don't know, but we're going to do it. We're going to do it.

So our story this morning ends with the man sitting at the feet of Jesus. He was "in his right mind". This is the phrase that kind of stuck out to me as I look at this scripture as a look at this story. It says that the man was sitting at the feet of Jesus and he was in his right mind. Now the story behind the story is that Jesus and His disciples had just crossed the sea of Galilee, and they basically had entered Gentile territory. It's important to understand that Jesus and His disciples had just crossed the sea of Galilee. They just entered Gentile territory. The place was called the Garasene. And basically a few generations before Jesus, Alexander the Great had defeated Garasene and had turned it into a Roman place. So it was a Roman place, a gentile place, and they had established Roman and Greek cities there. And so Jesus and His disciples had entered this place that was a gentile area and it was under Roman influence. And so basically this story really, honestly, offers a scathing critique of the Roman and Gentile world.

Let me unpack it just a little bit. I hope it will make sense. When Jesus's disciples first entered the Garasene area- the place as a gentile and Roman place- what's the first thing that happens? What's the first thing that happens? A man approaches them that has been possessed by demons. That's the story- as they enter this area, a man approaches him that's been possessed by demons. Now in the ancient world, demons were used to describe horrible evil, horrible atrocity, horrible suffering and oppression. Demons were used to describe kind of the why behind some of these things, and it says that this man was possessed by demons; and when Jesus asked him the name of the demons, what's the name given? Legion. Now where do you think that name comes from? Rome. His name is Legion and Legion comes from the Roman context. Legion is a name that is used to describe a group of six thousand Roman soldiers, and so put it together. Jesus and disciples are entering the Gentile, Roman context. They are approached with the man that's possessed by demons, and the name of the demon is Legion.

What's he trying to say? What's the Gospel of Luke trying to say? Well basically that the Roman Gentile world was under demonic control. There's evil. There's evil and Jesus cast out the evil. And He invites the man to sit at His feet. So basically this whole story is an invitation. Saying no to the Roman way of life- the Roman way of organizing the world- and say yes to the Jesus way of life. Say yes to the Jesus way of organizing the world. It's a way of describing saying no to the Roman kingdom and saying yes to the Jesus Kingdom- the Kingdom of God.

And what is the kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is basically imagining the world as if God were king and then organizing accordingly. That's the kingdom of God. If I could just say it really simply, really fast because I'm here to be brief, bright be, done, the kingdom of God is imagining the world as if God were king and building accordingly. If you really want to know what the kingdom of God looks like, think about the prayer that we pray every single Sunday. That's what the kingdom of God looks like. It's a kingdom. It's a world in which everyone has enough bread. Give us this day our daily bread. Barrett just talked about the kids having enough bread. That's the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is a world where people are forgiven their trespasses. So people who trespass whether that's through words, through deeds, or moving into other territories, they're forgiven. That's the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is where we are delivered of evil, where the world is is delivered of evil. And the way I understand evil is evil is live spelled backwards. Evil is life in reverse. That's what evil is. Evil is those forces that destroy the life that God is working to give us.

Here's some examples. Violence is evil. Violence is evil. Hunger, starvation are evil. There's no reason why someone in this world would go to bed hungry. Those forces that pull communities and families apart, they're evil. This is no- brainer stuff. Why is it so confusing to us? And this story we just heard is an invitation to say no to the Roman way. Say yes to the Jesus way which is a way that affirms life.

If I were to say it really simply, in many ways I think this story is an invitation to us to resist what I like to call stink'n think'n. I take that from the mental health world. In the addictions counseling world, they call it stink'n think'n. But this story is an invitation to resist that type of stuff. And what is stink'n think'n? Stink'n think'n is whenever you focus all on the negative and forget the positive. Stink'n think'n is where you or I think this is just the way the world is going and there is nothing I can do about it. Stink'n think'n says well that's just the way it's always been; I'm just going to go along with it. And there's a lot of that complacency in the world today. There's nothing I can do about. There's nothing ever going to change. It's just the way it's always been. No, that's not the gospel; that's just not the gospel. That's complacency, and that's stink'n think'n. The Gospel suggests that there is evil in the world and Jesus comes to give us power over it. So we don't have to go along with it.

The good news is we can change our minds. Scientifically speaking, you can actually change your mind. Did you know that? Loogotee is these things called dendrites, and in the words of Vince Anderson 'that's a 25 cent word' that a person that the Loogotee is maybe not quite qualified to use, but I'm going to try it. There's these things called dendrites and the dendrites are neurons that connect with other neurons and create channels of habit and activity within our minds. And so basically what the dendrites can do is create habitual ways of behaving and thinking, and over time what can happen as you continue to think that certain thoughts or continue to do certain things, they become almost natural to us. The dendrite start to connect. That's what begins to happen.

Like playing guitar, for example. I remember a few years ago I decided that I wanted to play the guitar. And the reason was because I wanted to be able to play music in case the organ player, the piano player didn't show up to our church. It was a smaller church. And I told Leslie I'm going to have to learn how to play an instrument. This is not going to be good, and I'm not the one to play the instrument. So I learned how to play guitar. And at first I was really clumsy, and I couldn't play the chords and I couldn't do the music. But after a while I learned three chords G, C, and D; and I was qualified to play a lot of songs in the Christian repertoire. If you get GCD down, you could do a lot. So basically what I would do is play softly and my wife Leslie would sing loudly and we made a great team.

So so here's the thing I bring up when I bring up the guitar though. At first I was very clumsy and I couldn't do it. But after a whirl while I learned GC and D and I got to the point where I can do it without even thinking about it. It just happened. That's the dendrites working. That's the dendrites working in our brain; and see friends, we have a choice when it comes to the dendrites in our minds. We can feed the negative. We can feed the evil. We can inundate ourselves with all these voices, and those dendrites are going to form together like channels and make that continue to happen within our minds. Or we can switch it and say no, I'm not going to see the world in that way. I'm going to see the world in gospel. I'm going to see the world the way Jesus taught me to see it. And I'm going to feed the right type of dendrites and be an Easter person. And that's what we need today, right? We need Easter people. In a sea and a world that is inundating us with negative stink'n think'n, we need the gospel people to say that is not the way of life and that is not the way the world created us to be.

And so here's my challenge this week to you. When you find yourself slipping into stink'n think'n, when you find yourself slipping in a place of hopelessness, when you find yourself listening to those voices of despair and evil, check yourself. Check yourself; and remember to sit at the feet of Jesus because when we sit at the feet of Jesus, what do we see? What did we find? We discover that light is greater than darkness, that life is greater than death and grace is greater than sin. When we sit at the feet of Jesus remember that light is greater than darkness, life is greater than death, and grace is greater than sin. And we choose to invest ourselves in these things because these are the things that are of God and will last. Amen

*LAST HYMN UMH #340

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"He Is King of Kings" a Spiritual by C. Callahan