

Re-Write Your Story

Traditional Worship • October 21

Our Pastors:

- Lead Pastor Andy Payton leadpastor@methodisttemple.church
- Associate Pastor JillAnn Knonenborg associatepastor@methodisttemple.church

Sunday Morning Volunteers:

- Ushers (21): Eric Eades, captain; Seby Durgy, Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)
- Ushers (28): Eric Eades, captain; Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, John Oberhelman, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)
- Greeters (21): Warren & Rosemary Heinsohn, Mary Lockett
- Greeters (28): Pat & Ken Haynie, Janet Kissel

*An usher remains in the Narthex during worship. Please reach out to them with any questions or special needs you may have. They are happy to assist!

Additional Information:

- Prayer Concerns: John Keller, Nancy Hitch; praises for the birth of baby William Edward Smith "Liam", parents Will & Alex Smith.
- Today's Sanctuary flowers given by the Flower Committee to the glory of God.
- Temple Choir is directed today by Don Travis. Organist: Barbara Waite. Additional Music provided by Temple Brass.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by M. Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of Heaven has made a home on earth.

People: Christ dwells among us and in us.

Leader: Come, all who thirst,

People: And drink Living Water.

Leader: Come, all who hunger,

People: And be filled with the Bread of Life.

Leader: Come, all who are searching,

People: And be warmed by the fire of love.

CHORAL INTROIT

"Come to Me" by C. O. Beck

*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

*FIRST HYMN UMH #589 *Hymn Tune - WAREHAM*

"The Church of Christ, In Every Age"

*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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us listen for God in the silence.

PASTORAL PRAYER

All: Holy One, You have offered Your unconditional love to us. Now we pledge our love to You. Strengthen us in our commitment and breathe passion into us. Our lives are Yours. O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...

GIVING OFFERING

"Give Me Jesus" by R. Billingham

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

#94 in Hymnal

ANTHEM

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" by Tomlin & Giglio/Raney

KIDZ MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:35-45

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE TFWS #2176

"Make Me a Servant "

MESSAGE by Matt Knonenborg

Laity Sunday

Before we read our scripture lesson for today I want to take a moment to introduce our speaker. Since it is Laity Sunday, we worked very hard to find a non-laity person to speak, and so we got Pastor JillAnn's husband, Matt, to speak. Well we had some motivation to get him to speak. Now Matt- just to tell you a couple of fun facts about Matt- Matt is a graduate of Shenandoah University in Virginia. He's a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. That's where he and JillAnn met. He is currently in the process of becoming an ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church, but technically he is not a clergy yet so he is a laity. Currently, he's working as a youth pastor-children's pastor- at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. More than anything else, he is a wonderful theologian. If you've ever had a conversation with Matt, he is a wonderful theologian; and I should also note, he has a rockin' cool beard. You'll see it in a moment. It's kind of like Gandalf. Do you know who Gandalf is? OK. He's almost cool like Gandalf. I'll just say it that way. And JillAnn is telling me not to encourage him with this beard right now, so I had to say something.

Good morning. As Andy introduced me, I am Matt Knonenborg. I am pastor of JillAnn's husband. I'm so very happy to be here with you all this morning and to worship with you all. This would have probably started out awkwardly because Andy tried to run off with us sermon just now, but I got back from him. So have you ever heard someone say 'don't pray for patience because God might just give it to you'? God might answer your prayer with situations that demand your patience, and those are not always the most fun situations. The same can be said of praying to love your enemies. You might end up spending a lot more time with them. When we ask God for something, we better be sure we know what we're asking for. So what about when we ask to follow Jesus?

In today's scripture, James and John did not stop to fully understand what they were asking for. James and John ask Jesus if they could sit at his right and left hands when he enters his kingdom. Imagine that Jesus shakes his head as he tells them 'you don't know what you are asking of me'. I think he must have turned his face slowly and solemnly toward Jerusalem and the fate that he knew awaited him there. As he said, 'Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' But again oblivious, James in John insist that they can. James and John are clueless about Jesus's response because even though they've been traveling with him for many years and are two of his closest friends, they still don't really know who Jesus is and what he is working for. In their minds, they are certain that Jesus will be an earthly king who throws out the Romans and the Jewish leadership who collaborate with the Romans and reestablish the throne of David to rule over the people, Israel. That's why they ask to be seated at his right and left hands. They aren't picturing a heavenly kingdom or the kingdom of God at the end of time but a triumph in Jerusalem in just a few weeks.

It makes sense that these two would want such a grand promotion. They are teenage boys from a backwater town in a poor family. They grew up as fishermen with their father. They knew plenty of suffering. Empty stomachs. Humiliation by Roman soldiers. They were nobodies. Yet, Jesus, Son of God, had called them. They had in fact already been promoted. They just hadn't realized it yet. If we're honest, we're not so different from James and John. Yes, we are Christians, followers of Christ, but sometimes we don't have the right priorities. We can woefully misunderstand the ways of God. We can think that the point of obeying Jesus is to guarantee us a reward- be it prosperity, wealth, health, or social status. But Jesus never promises any of those things to those who follow him. What Jesus does promise us is his baptism and his cup.

Let's go all the way back to the beginning of Jesus's ministry to his baptism. Jesus was baptized for something, baptized to a mission- to reveal God to the world. His mission was to embody God's love and power through each moment of his life. We, like Christ, are baptized into the very same mission. Jesus told James and John that despite their misplaced priorities, they would have to drink the same cup and be baptized by the same baptism if they wanted to follow him. Our baptisms are not self-serving, spiritual commodities that we experience and then dismiss. Baptism is an initiation into a new life, a beginning not an end to itself. The life of the baptized is dedicated to God and to every human being. As Jesus ends his conversation with James and John, he tells them that the only way to be great in the reign of God is to be a servant.

Our baptisms- if they are truly baptisms into Christ- initiate us into the lives of servants. It's easy in our culture to get it the other way around. Instead of serving, we expect that if we are great, we will always be served. Like James and John, we anticipate that we will receive rewards and honor, but Christ's mission was not to bestow on us rewards, it was to serve us and by doing so call us into the same kind of service. The cup is probably the last thing that James and John would have wanted to receive from Christ. The cup means all at once the vessel that holds the suffering of Christ- his blood- and the Kingdom of God breaking into our world right here and right now. Receiving the cup means suffering like Christ because being a servant is not easy. It means giving oneself to pour yourself out for the sake of others, to put others lives before your own. And receiving the cup means embodying the radical difference of the Kingdom of God.

In Second Temple Judaism wine symbolized the beginning of a new age. That's why Jesus turned water into wine as his first miracle. We participate in this new age right now through lives of service to those who society ignores. We participate every time we feast together at communion. The baptism, the cup, the call to service are offered by Christ to each of his followers. You don't need a fancy robe or a seminary degree to serve as a follower of Christ. James and John had neither. In a way Jesus was confronting James and John much like John F. Kennedy confronted America. Ask not what Jesus can do for you, but what you can do for Christ's kingdom.

As you go through the coming week, I invite you to reflect on how you can bear Christ's baptism and cup in your lives. How can we serve our church family and the community that surrounds us? For instance, you can serve in one of our churches' ministries even if you're not sure yet that you're qualified for the job. You can feed the hungry, visit the sick and imprisoned through our churches ministries or on your own. And of course the greatest act of Christ like service is to show love and compassion for each person you encounter- especially- when they're not so easy to love.

Every single one of us is called and expected to be a servant. As the wizard Gandalf says in Lord Of The Rings, 'It is not great power that holds evil in check. I found it is small, everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keeps the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.' That is what service means. You don't need to be a pastor to follow Jesus. You don't need to be someone of great status or someone who has every Bible verse memorized. All you need is small acts of kindness and love. So what will your acts this week? Amen.

*LAST HYMN UMH #584

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Toccata" by G. J. Pachelbel