

**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**Greeting:** God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day:**

% of WI citizens registered as organ/tissue/eye donors? a) 30% b) 40% c) 50% d) 60%

**Hymn** “10,000 Reasons”

**Call to Worship**

Praise be to God!

**Praise be to God for the gift of life.**

Praise be to God for the gift of death.

**Praise be to God for the gift of hope.**

But, above all else, praise be to God for the gift of love  
in which life and death and hope are intermingled.

**Praise be to God!**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**O Holy One, may we be filled with your Spirit. Gentle us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectations, of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties, that, softened by your love, surrounded by your light, and open to your mystery, we may be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple, and filled with the joy that is you. Amen.**

**Matthew 25:1-13 NRSV**

[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NRSV**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

## **Time of Prayer**

**How Is It With Your Soul?**

**Call to Confession**

Let us confess our need for forgiveness.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, if sin means cutting ourselves off from you and being unprepared to respond to your presence, surely we have sinned. Our lamps are not trimmed; our lives are not ready for your trumpet call. We have not listened well or encouraged one another in the faith.**

**The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer. We are witnesses against ourselves, for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way.**

**Merciful God, we seek your forgiveness. (*Time of silent prayer.*)**

**Assurance**

We believe that God is eager to free us from all that imprisons us. God extends full pardon to us. Praise God for forgiveness as we join with Jesus in praying:

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 us 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.**

**Answer to the Question of the Day**

**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

**Offering Prayer**

**Holy God, freely we have received extravagant blessings from you. Freely we give, with gratitude and joy. May our offering demonstrate our trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Message** "We're Being Nudged" Rev. Joyce Rich

**Blessing**

Keep awake, **for Christ is coming**

to gather us to his welcome table, **where we will feast in joy.**

May the grace of Christ surround us, **the love of God uphold us,**

And the Holy Spirit spark us with unquenchable fire

**as we wait and work for the kingdom to come.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**Hymn** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**Announcements**

**Read For Next Week:** Judges 4:1-23; Judges 5:1-31

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