

Service of Worship on Sunday, September 12, 2021

Welcome

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

Question of the Day What is “Rock the Block”?

a) dance off b) old TV show c) geology class d) Habitat for Humanity special projects

Hymn “Thy Word”

Call to Worship

Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?

How long will we ignore God’s counsel and reproof?

Our waywardness separates us from God.

We gather to renew our relationship with God.

We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.

Prayer of Invocation

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Awaken our trust that we may follow where your Spirit leads. Amen.

Proverbs 1:20-33 *New Revised Standard Version*

Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,

and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,

when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

would have none of my counsel, and despised my reproof,

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way

and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple,

and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.

James 3:1-12 *The Message*

Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything – or destroy it!

It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue – it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

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

Hymn “Sanctuary”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Unison Prayer

It says in the Bible, O God, that you created the world through your Word. Your Word is powerful! And so are our words. They can heal, create a smile, be a declaration of love; but they can also hurt and destroy a sense of self-worth. Give us your wisdom, God of the Word, so that as a church and as individuals, we use our words to build up and not to destroy. *Time of Silent Prayer*

With Jesus Christ, the living Word, we pray:

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

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we use the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Song of Offering “More Precious than Silver”

Sermon “What We Set Loose” Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Listen for the wisdom God wants you to know.

Seek God’s counsel and reproof each day.

How good it is to sense God’s guidance!

How amazing it is to see Jesus’ face in the people around us!

How exciting it is to follow where the Spirit leads!

Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn “Covenant Prayer”

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: Mark 9:30-37; James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2015 Westminster John Knox Press.*