

## **Bulletin for Sunday, November 15, 2020**

PRELUDE

GREETING and WELCOME

TIME of CENTERING PRAYER

CALL to WORSHIP:

L: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the talents God has given you?

**P: We offer our gifts to God this day.**

L: Praise God for our abilities and the opportunities for service that they represent.

**P: We praise God for all the ways in which we can be a blessing to others.**

L: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

**P: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.**

CALL to CONFESSION

The religious leaders of Jesus' day had been entrusted with spreading the Word of God but Jesus criticizes them for neglecting to share this special gift fully with the people. Much has been entrusted to us - especially the good news of the Word made flesh - Jesus Christ. The more industrious we are in sharing this good news with others, the more opportunity there is for faith to increase in the lives of those who hear and respond to our witness.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive us when we invest our energies into increasing our personal prosperity rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of Jesus Christ. Forgive us when we squander our gifts by failing to use them to build people up. Forgive us when we conceal the wideness of your mercy by our lack of compassionate behavior. Forgive us when we fail to be adventurous in spreading the gospel. Increase our capacity to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed even if this means taking risks and expending whatever energy we may have. Help us to hear Jesus' words addressed to us about being eager to share the spiritual treasure that we have, knowing that as we do, more, much more, will be given to us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

WORDS of PARDON and ASSURANCE

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up in the knowledge that in Jesus Christ we are enriched, we are loved, and we are forgiven.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Thy Word" Joe Tanner, Michael Foster, and Ron Fetterhoff

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

MUSICAL OFFERING: "Holy Father" – Jake and Debbie Schneider (video)

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON: *"Don't Let Your Talents Go to Waste"* Pastor Warner

HYMN STORY *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

PRAYER CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER and 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN STORY *"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

BENEDICTION

Go in peace; love and care for one another in Christ's name, and may God bless you with every gift needful for His work. May the Spirit grant you the willingness to risk yourself completely for the sake of the gospel, and may the love, the compassion, the hope, and the faith of Jesus dwell richly within you until the time of his coming. Both now and forevermore. Amen

*\*\* Flowers on the altar are given in honor of*