



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship for streaming service during COVID-19

August 30, 2020

9:30 am



about today's service

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

P: Presiding Minister C: Congregation L: Lector

✚ Gathering ✚

We gather together to praise God and receive God's love.

Welcome Pastor Jack Horner

Gathering music "Will You Come and Follow Me"
Charles Callahan
Elizabeth Boehme, oboe

Announcements Pastor Jack Horner

Confession and Forgiveness Pastor Jack Horner

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "Will You Come and Follow me" kelvin grove

- "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
- "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

- "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
- "Will you love you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
- Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus, I'll move and live and growing you and you in me.

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(video)

Greeting Pastor Jack Horner

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day Pastor Jack Horner

P: Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message Amy Koch, Faith Formation

Song: "I Believe In That Love"
FaithX (pre-recorded)

✚ Word ✚

We listen to the story of God's mighty acts for the sake of God's people.

Reading: Romans 12:9-21 Margy Fox

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Pastor Jack Horner

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor Jack Horner

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Pastor Jack Horner

Series theme:

"Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?"

Weekly sermon title: "Till Death Do Us Part"

Solo: "Irish Blessing"

arr. Bob Chilcott

Nancy Moore, soloist

Prayers of the Church

Steve Kauffman

Lord's Prayer

Steve Kaufman

P: Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

C: 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 and ever. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Pastor Jack Horner

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

✠ Sending ✠

We have heard the Word of God and offered our gifts. Now we are sent out, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be God's people in the world.

Blessing

Pastor Jack Horner

P: The Lord be near you at all times, the Lord walk beside you so that you will not be troubled, the Lord fill your hearts with gladness, and your mouth with joyful song; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Pastor Jack Horner

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song: Toccata on "How Firm a Foundation" Craig Phillips (pre-recorded)

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.

worship leaders

Presiding and Preaching Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Children's Message: Faith Formation

Music: H. Timothy Koch, Debbie D Wilson

Audio Visual: Jon Lobaugh, Danelle Andrews

Bulletin Production: Steve Kauffman

Bulletin Artwork: Trinity Staff

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"Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?" "Till Death Do Us Part"

The Reverend Dr. Jack M. Horner

Don't just listen to the Sermon...Ponder how you can live it!

Use these questions as a starting point to dive deeper into the sermon each week. Can be used individually, with family and friends, or with your Life-group!

Points to ponder:

1. If you could predict your death, what would you say?
2. How can suffering be redemptive?
3. What does your "cross" look like?
4. Paul gives a number of actions (verbs) related to love in Romans 12.9-21. Which ones resonate most with you?
5. Which ones are the hardest to do?
6. What does "overcoming evil with good" look like today?

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Oftentimes, when the church does a survey and asks about preaching and worship, one of the main things that people ask for is that the Bible might be made practical for their life. They want

it to be understandable. They want to be able to see how it connects with their daily living as they seek to maneuver through life. How does the Bible help us to deal with challenges? It makes a lot of sense for normal everyday Christians to be concerned about these things.

The Bible not just one book, it's actually 66 books. And it contains the stories of God and God's people. It deals with human stuff – war, peace, politics, societal ills, ethics, death, life, and our journey with God. It's a magnificent story of God's love for his people. And for Christians it all centers on the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The big question for the first disciples was "Who is Jesus?" In a previous section of Matthew Peter answers that question. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah or Christ.

Now, there's another question, a second question as important as the first. "How is Jesus the Messiah"? Jesus tells the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, undergo great suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and on the third day rise again. The Messiah must suffer and die. And for the first-century Jewish person like the disciples, the words suffering and Messiah don't go together. They would be considered an oxymoron. Two words put together that are exact opposites. Like civil war, jumbo shrimp, or peaceful riot. Jesus is telling his disciples that his death is the will of God. It is necessary that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer and die.

Jesus is recounting words first said by the prophet Isaiah who foreshadowed the Messiah's death 700 years earlier.

^{53:4}Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Suffer and die!! Peter is horrified by the suggestion. "God forbid, not you!" Peter attempts to correct Jesus.

Early church father Origen suggested that when Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan," what he actually meant was, "Peter, your place is behind me, not in front of me. It's your job to follow me in the way I choose, not to try to lead me in the way YOU would like me to go."

A disciple's place is to follow Jesus, not to patronize him. It is to obey, not to correct, to believe Jesus is who he says he is and for you to become who he instructs you to become, no matter how uncomfortable that may make us feel. Even the best disciples can make mistakes. Rocks can become stumbling blocks.

Not to follow Jesus in his mission is to be against him and his purpose in the same way that Satan was. Remember, it was the devil who tempted Jesus in the wilderness to give up who he was and instead follow him.

But Jesus will not be a push over; he is clear in his purpose and his mission and will not be dissuaded even by his closest disciple. The human concerns of power, success, and status are not as important as service, generosity, and caring says Jesus. He will live for it and he will die for it.

And if that's how you want your life to be, a life lived for your family, for your friends, for your community, for your church, and for your country, get behind Jesus and follow him. He will show you the way, the truth, and the life worth living.

But understand, it is not an easy road. He makes that clear to the disciples. They will have their crosses to bear as well. You'll have to set down your desire for prestige and influence, money and consumerism, so you can take up the cross and its values of self-sacrifice, humility and love.

And following Jesus is not enforced as we heard in our children's message. He doesn't scream at you for compliance. He doesn't make you do anything. It's an invitation to live like him, to deny yourself to serve others. When we follow Jesus, we experience true freedom from that which would enslave us.

A German pastor who fought against the Nazis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said that discipleship is not a confession of belief, but obedience. It is following. Jesus bids us to come and die. To die to self, to be bound to him in community, so that we can truly live! Don't just admire Jesus, follow Jesus. And our following centers on love.

Paul in his letter to the Romans offers guidelines for how Christians are to center our lives in love. He shares these wonderful attributes of love.

- First: love is genuine. It's real, it's honest, it's not fake.
- Make it your way of life. There is too much evil and hatred in the world; be different from the world and its values.

I'm reminded of a chorus from Bob Dylan's song *Gotta Serve Somebody*.

But you're gonna to have to serve somebody,
yes.
Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the
Lord,
but you're gonna have to serve somebody.
Serve Jesus

- Let yourself love and be loved. Paul calls this "mutual affection". Love requires us to be open to the love and then the potential pain of loss.
- Honor people. Respect people. The hardest thing for me during these times in which we are living is seeing the lack of respect for our fellow human beings, whether it's the police, protesters or politicians. Christian living is to try to "outdo each other in showing honor." The persons you may malign have all been created in the image of God and loved by him. Remember that!
- Love extravagantly, generously, passionately with voice, thought, and action for your neighbor.
- Strive to be like Jesus. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

- Care about your friends and the stranger you don't even know. Hospitality is a virtue in every major culture and religion. If we forget about caring for each other, we lose our very humanity.
- Show empathy. We are social animals. We are best together. Seek to understand what a person is going through. Listen, care, support them in their needs.
- Promote peace. Promote peace in your homes, in your church, in your community, in the streets. The answer to riots on the streets is not to go into those streets with violent intent, but instead with love. "Don't repay evil for evil."
- Be humble. Don't react to everything you hear. Think for yourself. Seek wisdom rather than knee jerk reaction. God gave us more developed brains, so we don't have to react to every situation like a snake.
- Be good person. Live right. Be at peace within yourself and in your interactions with others and especially with those you consider to be your enemies.
- Remember God is your judge, so you don't have to judge others. Be open to forgiveness and reconciliation and redemption. Let people say of you "He (or she) loved God and loved people."

Brothers and sisters, each of us has a journey to make and the free will to travel it. There are choices to be made. Some will be made good and some bad.

Jesus showed the world God's love for you and for me. It meant suffering, sacrifice, and ultimately death. To those who follow him he promised a similar path, but that path also brings us life, resurrection hope, peace, and yes, love.

It begins by being a little uncomfortable and following Jesus.

Amen.