

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ



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NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2020

10:00 A.M.



SILENT PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP

Great and good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you; humble hearts that we may hear you; hearts of love that we may serve you; hearts of faith that we may live for you; and reverent hearts that we may worship you here in the sanctuary, in the sacred spaces in our homes, and in the routine of our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE TRIUNE GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL AND CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

([Psalm 124:8](#))

May our lives profess and proclaim that 'our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth'.

Amen!

O come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel for before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God,

and we are the sheep of his hand.

([Psalm 95: 6 -7](#))

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

([Psalm 118:24](#))

SALUTATION

([Philippians 1:2](#))

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

(based on [Ruth 2:4](#))

We Search the Starlit Milky Way 45

The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. Psa. 14:1

1. We search the star - lit Milk - y Way, A mil - lion
 2. But as I grope from sphere to sphere, New won - ders
 3. We probe the a - toms for their cause, Ex - plore the
 4. Each flash of fact from out the night, Each burst of

worlds in rhyth - mic sway, Yet in our blind - ness
 crowd the eye, the ear, And faith grows firm - er
 earth for na - ture's laws, Yet sel - dom in our
 truth up - on my sight That quick - ens awe or

some will say, "There is no God con - trol - ling!"
 ev - ery year: "My God is there con - trol - ling!"
 search - ing pause To think of God con - trol - ling!
 adds de - light, Re - veals my God con - trol - ling!

OPENING PRAYER

God we thank you for your presence with us in this hour, in this day, in this past week and for the coming week. As we worship draw us from the periphery of life where we have been living back the center of life that orbits around Jesus Christ. Draw us away from the temporal concerns that easily consume us, and toward you and those permanent realities that endure and are lasting.

Remind us now that you are the potter and we are the clay. Open our hearts and minds, and shape us more and more into Christ-likeness.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

WE ARE RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's Word assures us:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

(based on [1 John 1: 8-9](#))

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word, and deed; in what we have done , and in what we have left undone. Therefore we pray in silence before you.

(silent reflection)

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say, in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

Believe this Gospel, go forth, and live in peace!

GOD'S DIRECTION FOR OUR LIVES

([The Beatitudes - Matthew 5: 1- 12](#))

¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

³ "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Special Music performed by Debbie Bigelow & Paula England Morning Has Broken with
1000 Tongues to Sing
arr. Weekley & Arganbright*

WE HEAR AND LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Old Testament [Isaiah 40: 12-14, 21-23, 28-31](#)
New Testament [Matthew 13: 44-50](#)

SERMON – *Discovering Hidden Treasure*

(Text Pg. 10)

Fairest Lord Jesus 58

Thou art fairer than the children of men . . . Psa. 45:2

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Ru - ler of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
And all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
Praise, ad - o - ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine! A - men.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Eternal God, whose love and compassion crown all our days with hope and beauty. We thank you for the dependable patterns of night and day, and for the seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall. For the beauty of the earth cloaked in the gifts of this season with the array of vibrant colors, the pumpkins and squash that enrich these autumn days. We thank you for children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, for the joy of our homes and families, those close to us and for those in the church pews before, behind, and

beside us, for the fellowship of St. Andrew's . We thank you for those who open their hands and hearts for ministry in St. Andrew's, those hands that open the doors, fix the toilets, plant flowers, type and print bulletins, and for elbows to bump, for masks that keep us safe', for music and musicians that lift our spirits, and for hearts that are open to others, and offer prayers, we give thanks. We give thanks that to date you have spared this congregation from the Covid -19 virus.

In the name and spirit of Christ we offer prayers for those who live with uncertainty of health, chronic pain, and side effects from Covid-19.

We pray for those who have lost employment, those with more month than income and those who have lost direction and purpose in living.

We pray for those who are stressed, discouraged by the news, depressed by life circumstances and those who have lost homes and hope.

Our prayers are lifted up for those men and women who are seemingly fighting a losing battle against those wildfires on the west coast. Where they are tired and weary give them strength to and courage to persevere. We pray for all those people who have affected by these fires, those who have lost loved ones, and homes, business and daily routines. Give them the help and hope necessary to pick up and more forward.

Continue to walk with us as we are still living in this new world and make adjustments in so many areas of life. Keep us alert and vigilant
we strive to love our neighbor by maintaining safe practices and places.

We pray this through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

***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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.***

WE GO FORTH TO REVEAL JESUS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 419

This God is our God . . . He will be our guide even unto death. Psa. 48:14

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand;
Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my jour - ney through;
Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on Ca - naan's side;

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, Be Thou still my strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more, (want no more,) Feed me till I want no more.
shield, (strength and shield,) Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee, (give to Thee,) I will ev - er give to Thee. A-men.

BENEDICTION

In your journeys to and fro- God direct you;
In your happiness and pleasure- God bless you,
In care, anxiety, or trouble- God sustain you,
In peril and in danger- God protect you.
The grace of God be with you all, now and always.
Amen!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ **St. Andrew's generously donated a total of \$500** for the Crop Walk which was held last Sunday. THANK YOU to all who donated. Over \$29,000 was raised in Chelsea & Dexter, 25% of the total raised will be given to Faith in Action. Thanks again.
- ✚ **Hymn Sing!**- A tentative outdoor hymn sing is being planned in the church parking lot for TODAY, Sunday, October 11th at 2pm, weather permitting. Hymn books will be supplied, but we ask all participants to bring their own chairs. We will sing with masks ON and remain appropriately distanced, for those concerned. Please join us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

- ✚ **Special Offering:** For the month of October, special offerings can be made to Neighbors in Need, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Envelopes are available on the table next to the Chronicle.



UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses)
OF ST. LOUIS, MO

"Unleash[ing] the magnificent potential in children, families and neighborhoods that leads to a just community for all."

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the "Baby Essentials" program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.

credit:
UP - early childhood webpage



Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, "thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!"

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

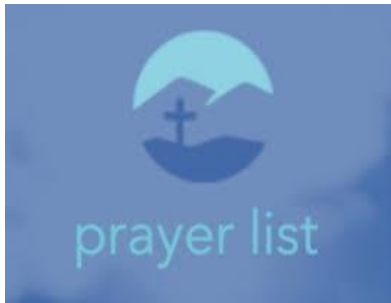
all children have the right to simply be children...

Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. Thank you!

- ✚ **Rummage Sale Update:** It has been decided to postpone the fall rummage sale until after January 1st. St. Andrew's members may bring donations to the church in the meantime and store them in the back rooms.

- ✚ **Phone calls and Cards of Support** while Betty Davenport is recovering from a broken arm can be send to her at the following address:

*Betty Davenport
c/o Pam Pollard
43636 Hanover Ct.
Canton MI 48187
Ph#734-207-3886*



St. Andrew's United Church of Christ Prayer List

Someone has said that when we work, we work; but when we pray, God works! God's strength is available to praying people who pray and believe God can make a difference. In your prayers this week, we ask that you especially remember the following people and circumstances and believe that God is at work in each situation.

"Devote yourselves to PRAYER, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving."

Colossians 4:2

"Lord, let your loving kindness be upon us, as we put our trust in you."

Psalms 33:22

Friends and Family of St. Andrew's

Irv & Babe Hollis and Family- *Parents of Coleen Tomshany*

Kyle Yaeger- *Sister of Coleen Tomshany*

Carl Lesser

Mary Rettig

Bob Rose

Janet Stanfield- *Daughter of Bob Mast*

Jerry Stoll

Jacob Thompson- *Grandson of Carol Jones*

Molly Thompson- *Granddaughter of Jerry & Sharon Stoll*

Betty Davenport

The family of Walter Mayer

Prayers for the World Around Us

Let us pray for patience and perseverance as we continue to live with Covid-19; as we remember those who have lost loved ones, employment and their businesses. We ask that all essential people be given strength and wisdom as they continue to seek solutions to bring health and healing to our world. Help us to remain vigilant and guide our actions in the days to come.

Prayer for the Healing of our Nation

Lord, we seek peace as unrest ripples through the streets of our land. Help us listen to the hurt and pain of those who have been dehumanized and brutalized because of the color of their skin and to begin to understand the reasons for protest. Just as unrest is breaking out, we pray too, that understanding can break out just as well.

Members Serving in the Military

Brandon Campbell Jacob Hargrove

Scott Mosher Joshua Ware

Noah Campbell Sterling Hargrove

Clinton Olberg Nick Gagalis

Richard McCleery Joel Slavik

People Beyond the St. Andrew's Congregation

Lauren Allison- *Audrey Marshall's Great-Granddaughter*

Janis Clark

Bill Coté- *Friend of Elaine Owsley*

Judy Cote- *Sister of Gale Cobb*

Lillian Donald

Rylee Donaldson- *Audrey Marshall's Great-Granddaughter*

Glenn Ehrstine- *Son of Joan Ettinger*

Linda Ehrstine- *Daughter of Joan Ettinger*

Chuck Feldkamp- *Audrey Marshall's Nephew*

Greg Gardner- *Husband of Sue Gardner, Quilter in Piecemakers*

Chuck Gooding- *Brother-in-law of Cathy Gagalis*

Gene Harvey- *Brother-in-law of Sharon Stoll*

Dale Hoffman- *Brother of Ann Egeler*

Anna Jones- *Mother of Denise Marshal*

Ollie Knapp & Melissa Taylor- *Friends of Shirley Cobb*

Troy King- *Audrey Marshall's Grandson-in-law*

Kristen Kowalski- *Bob Brueninger's Daughter*

Gary Kuehnle- *Friend of Elaine Owsley*

Lori Pliner- *Coleen Tomshany's niece*

SERMON- Discovering Hidden Treasure

In the spring of 1947, two Bedouin boys were shepherding their sheep and goats at Qumran near the dead sea. When they discovered that one of the animals was missing, the boys went looking for it. While climbing up a hillside, one of the boys saw a hole in the rocky ground. Fearing that the animal might have entered that hole or cave and not wanting to venture into this dark place on his own, the young shepherd threw a stone hoping that it would scare the animal out in the open.

Instead of the expected squeal of an animal, the boy heard the sound of breaking pottery. Frightened he ran to find his fellow shepherd. Together the boys returned to the cave. As their eyes adjusted to the darkness of the cave inside they saw some earthen ware jars, stuffed inside the jars were rolls and rolls of ancient scrolls.

The boys discovery touched off a thorough search of the area. Eventually 11 caves were discovered were over 600 scrolls with thousands of fragments. About one third of these scrolls turned out to biblical writings.

In going about their daily routine, the two boys had unexpectedly come upon one of the biggest archeological treasures of modern times. They had discovered the first of the now famous Dead Sea Scrolls.

Nearly 19 centuries earlier about 50 miles north near the sea of Galilee, Jesus told a similar story of someone going about their daily routine and suddenly coming upon treasure.

A man was working in a field and when he came upon treasure that years ago some had buried there. Palestine was a land of wars, and often people would bury their valuables to preserve them from plundering soldiers or thieves. Often and unexpectedly a town or field could become a battlefield with houses being quickly looted. In a day where there were no banks or safety deposit boxes burying money and valuables was the safest way to protect it against robbers or looters.

If the owner died before he could disclose the hiding place to heirs, the treasure lay hidden and forgotten until some lucky person discovered it.

So, Jesus is using this word picture, this parable to teach us something about God, God's kingdom, and reign. The Kingdom of God is like this treasure in a hidden field. When a man found it he went and hid it again, and then in all his joy, went and sold all that he had and bought the field. What does this mean? What does this parable tell us about God's kingdom? And what does it say about the when and where of the Kingdom?

One thing this parable makes clear, is that the Kingdom is not something in the wild blue yonder, not in glory land way beyond the blue. Nor is the Kingdom something that is totally hidden away in the future, something yet to come. It's not like some of those pre-millennialist who interpret the Book of Revelation as speaking about a thousand year rule of peace and justice to be set up by Christ after his second coming. Some of these fundamentalist like Tim Lahey and others like to and will predict the exact day of the Second Coming, predict the time when the world will be destroyed, and make a few million dollars in

the process. I like the words of the 'Gloria Patria' much better... 'world without end, amen, amen'. If some of those fundamentalist would pick the hymn for this topic, they may have chosen Skeeter Davis's, "don't they know it is the end of the world?" or the 5th Dimension's...."Up, up, and Away in my beautiful balloon."

Rather, Jesus says the Kingdom of God has already broken into our present world and it is hidden in the most ordinary of places and events. It is as close to us as the treasure was a close to this man in the parable. He might have been plowing along in his field when his plow struck an obstacle with his first reaction might have been, "Oh these confounded stones again!"

What does all this tell us about the Kingdom of God? First, the Kingdom comes as a surprise, as a gift, as an act of grace. The man in the parable is not looking for treasure, he comes upon it unexpectedly.

It's the stuff that drops in your lap, totally out of the blue. I remember once being invited over to a person's house for afternoon tea. It was a routine pastoral call with a person who rarely came to worship, but he invited me to stop by and I did and enjoyed tea and cookies. Toward the end of the conversation, he said I have a gift that I would like to give the church and so he went and got his checkbook and wrote a check that was a very large and generous sum of money that was to go the Church Education Fund that helped give financial support students continuing their education.

Secondly, we discover that the Kingdom comes in the course of our daily activities. It is not located in the realm beyond death, nor is it something that will break into our lives in the future, nor does it appear in areas that designated and roped off as religious. It can appear to us anytime and anywhere. I like the story of the psychiatrist who attended a Billy Graham Crusade to study the dynamics of conversation, simply as an intellectual exercise in observation and came home converted!

Thirdly, the Kingdom, this Kingdom, demands something, it demands total commitment. It requires that we obtain it for what we treasure the most. In the parable the man sells all that he has so that he can go and purchase the field with this treasure. Think of how Olympic athletes give some much of their lives in practice to their event whether it's swimming, running, skating, skiing, whatever they event, their dedication to practice and sacrifice to achieve a medal is all becomes all consuming. Kingdom living has demands and involves our total commitment.

And finally and fourthly, the Kingdom of God comes despite and through the immoral people such as the man in the parable. If the treasure is ownerless does the finder become the legal and moral owner. Why is this person in the parable considered to be immoral? Why does this person go and purchase this field in such haste? According the Jewish law the finder of treasure would have to divide the treasure with the owner of the field. So this quick short sale is not really moral or legal. In spite of that and through that, God's Kingdom comes. That's the way God's works, through sinful people. Think of the prostitute Rehab who

protected the Israelite spies with a lie, Moses the leader of Israel who murdered an Egyptian, and David and adultery.

God brings his Kingdom near even through what his servant people do wrong as they do right.

Perhaps you can look at your life and see where God was working in spite of who you were or what you were doing. God can take what is sinful and use that for His Kingdom purposes too! So there is hope for us.

Amen

Let us pray:

Lord God, sometimes our routines are boring, monotonous, and tedious. Help us to see the ordinary of our routine and place as a possible source of hidden treasure, of you and your Kingdom breaking into our lives where the holy can be found in the mundane, and the sacred in the secular. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.