



Warwood - Short Creek United Methodist Charge
Laity Sunday

"You're a Minister and You're a Minister"

20th Sunday After Pentecost October 18, 2020

Warwood:

Gathering Music "Take Thou My Hand, Dear Father" Ritter

Short Creek:

Listen to CD Hymn No. 140 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Welcome

Call to Worship

The goodness of the Lord passes before us;
The name of the Holy One is proclaimed for all to hear.
God is gracious and merciful to whomever God chooses;
Show us your glory, O Lord, we pray!

Gathering Prayer

BEATITUDES FOR LAITY

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for they know the unutterable beauty of simple things.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they have dared to risk their hearts by giving of their love.
Blessed are the meek,
for the gentle earth shall embrace them and hallow them as its own.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall know the taste of noble thoughts and deeds.
Blessed are the merciful,
for in return theirs is the gift of giving.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall be at one with themselves and the universe.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for theirs is a kinship with everything that is holy.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for the truth will set them free.

F. Forrester Church, Peace Prayers, Harper, p.95

Sharing from Scripture

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Reading from the Hebrew Bible Exodus 33:12-23

12 Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' 13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." 14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." 17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." 21 And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; 23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's."

Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Children's Sermon at Short Creek

Pastor

Children's Sermon at Warwood

Barbara Cover

Sermon

"You're a Minister-Give to God"

Call to Discipleship

How will be a minister of the Gospel this week? Please share your ideas of ministry in the pandemic and how you are living the faith by sending us a picture or thought that can be put on our social media @Short Creek UMC on Facebook and @Warwood UMC on Facebook

Sharing Beliefs

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**The Statement of Faith from the United Church of Canada*

Common Prayer

From the beginning, God entered into covenant with the human family: with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into the covenant and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.

All Christian ministry is Christ's work of outreaching love.

It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

All Christians are called to Christ's servanthood in the world, to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.

The Church, as the community of the new covenant, participates in Christ's ministry of grace.

It stretches out to human needs wherever service may convey God's love and ours. In our ministry of servanthood is this ultimate concern: that all may be renewed in the image of their Creator, and that all Christians are called to minister in deeds and words that heal and free.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. *Silent prayer*

In times of difference and division, save us from rancor and meanness, O God. Help us focus ourselves on things that are excellent and worthy. Make us witnesses to your way of justice and righteousness. Transform us and transform the world, we pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers. *Silent prayer*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Silent prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Silent prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Silent prayer.*

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Warwood:

Musical Selection "A Child of the King, with I'd Rather Have Jesus" arr. Ham

Short Creek:

Listen to CD Hymn No. 339

"Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast"

Prayer of Repentance

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

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.

Giving to the Ministry of Church

Giving at Short Creek UMC may be done in person at the church each Sunday. Please place your gift in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your gift.

Giving at Warwood UMC may be done in person or you can give online at Warwoodumc.org, through the mail at 1438 Warwood Ave, Wheeling, WV 26003, or by placing your gift in the designated containers or holders. Thank you for your gift to continue the ministry of the Church.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Gifts

O God, creator of all that we have and all that we are, no one can utter all your mighty deeds or declare all your praise. Yet accept these gifts, we pray, both as tools of the work of the gospel and as signs of our pledge to be coworkers in Christ's name. Amen.

Sharing of Information and Announcements

Discipleship Ministry (Things to do this Week)

- **October we are gathering soup for the House of the Carpenter**
- **Collecting Undies all month for the HOC**
- Online Bible Study "The Book of Ruth"
 - I will post videos of content throughout October
 - Toward the end of the month we will have a video/phone discussion of the study.
 - I will have posted the curriculum link on our website for you to download at Warwoodumc.org
- Invite and welcome someone new to our online worship service by sharing our links on the website, YouTube, and Facebook
- **All Saints Sunday is November 1 (Pray for the saints)**
 - **Please send in your Saints to the church office**
- Please come to the Church next Saturday to drop your drawers for Undie Sunday
- Read over the revised guidelines
- Pray for our school systems, essential workers, those caring for the ill.
- Pray for wisdom, mercy, and justice to lead in our nation
- Pray for people of color, people who are out of work, people suffering because of the pandemic, and for mercy & goodwill will for all
- Read and work the Sunday school lessons provided
- Study and live the United Methodist way of life
- Give to your church for its ongoing ministry

Ending of the Service and Sending Forth

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. AMEN.
(2 Corinthians 13:13)

Our Prayer of Hope

From Mother Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." Amen.

Warwood:

Sending Music "In Thee Is Joy"

Denton

Short Creek:

Listen to CD Hymn No. 467 “Trust and Obey”

THE WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED, THE SERVICE BEGINS

Note: *The Liturgy for this Sunday is from Ministry Matters, FWS, GBOD, the Hymnal, and Book of Worship.*

Children’s Time for The Home

[Prepare red and pink construction hearts to be given to the children. Write the word “God” on one side of each heart. Bring several sharpie markers for the children to write their names. Have several of the youth help the children write their names on the hearts.]

Good morning! God’s days are always very special, but this one is extra-special!

I’m going to ask you to give something to God. That’s right! You guessed it! It’s the hearts on which you have written your names. Hold on to them for just a moment.

A long time ago some officials tried to trick Jesus. They felt that you should only belong to the Emperor and the Empire. They wanted Jesus to tell them what to do about taxes. If Jesus said that they didn’t have to pay taxes, then he would be in trouble. That was what they were hoping that he would say. It was a kind of loyalty test.

Jesus knew that these were tricky officials, so he said, “Give me a coin.” They handed him a coin and the picture of the Emperor was on it. Jesus asked them whose picture was on the coin and they told him it was the Emperor’s picture. So, he said, Use this money to pay the taxes because the face of the Emperor was on it. However, he said to give your whole life to God, because God was in your heart. They failed. They hadn’t tricked Jesus.

This morning you have written your name on your heart — many of you noticed that the word “God” is written on the other side. I’m going to ask you to give your little heart to God by placing it in this basket and then we will put the basket on the altar/worship center.

[Have the children put their hearts in the basket.]

Let’s go over to the worship center. [Place the basket in a prominent place on the altar]. Let’s pray. “O Lord, we give you this little basket with our hearts. We have written our names on the hearts and your name is on our heart. Help us to be faithful to you and to help other

people in your world. Thank you for all the ways you have blessed each of us. AMEN.”

Christian Spiritual Formation in the United Methodist Tradition

How United Methodist Christians live and witness their Faith:

- Do No Harm
- Do Good
- Stay in Love with God by practicing the “Means of Grace”
The “Means of Grace” are our primary spiritual disciplines of prayer, reading scripture daily, fasting, attending worship (Online and/or In Person) and sharing in the sacraments

Home Sunday School Lessons for Individuals and Families

Please study this lesson with someone, over the phone, Facebook live, facetime, house party, zoom... Call a friend and start a home Sunday School class.

Read this week’s Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

- What does this passage say about God?

- What does this passage say about humanity?
- What does it say about the relationship between God and humanity?
- What new thing is God bringing to life in you today?

- No outside groups may use our facilities so that we protect our custodians and trustees

Underlined are the new guidelines

Note: The charge relaunch pandemic team is using the *Harvard Public Health Data Map for Guidance*. Therefore, if the Harvard data map for Ohio county goes to red, we will suspend in person worship until it goes back to Harvard orange.

Revised Social Distancing Norms for Churches in the WV Annual Conference of the UMC:

- Six Feet Radius per-person
- Wear a mask or face shield
- Wash hands and use the sanitation stations
- Listen to music, but not sing
- No hand shaking, hugging or touching
- **No church dinners or dinner like fund raisers until the pandemic is better controlled. Trustees will need to check with local health department for local rules. Trustees will need to check our insurance policies to see what our liabilities are if we have a dinner or activity.**
- No live flowers
- No coffee time before or after worship
- No snacks
- No movements in the service
- **No outdoor fellowship until the community infection rate is less than 1/100,000. Trustees will need to check our insurance policies to see what our liabilities are if we have a dinner or activity.**
- No gathering up front for children's sermon- Children must remain with their families
- All in-person Christian education or formation groups must follow social distancing guidelines
- Building must be cleaned between uses
- Christian formation will happen online with the weekly bulletin
- No bulletins for the service to reduce contact surface; Bibles, hymnals, and all other materials will be removed from pews
- No one will sit in the first two pews
- Offerings will be received in a container at the back of the sanctuary; no offering plates or other items will be passed through the congregation
- All church events from weddings to funerals must comply with the current size of group guidelines given by authorities and the CDC for social distancing and cleaning