

Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Our delight is in you O Lord
WE WILL NOT FORGET YOUR WORD

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

John 2

Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'

Acts 7

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 6

Jesus is un-impressed by the Temple. Not a surprise, given his very simple lifestyle, his focus on people, and, we could also say, his connection with the natural world and how effortlessly he sees God in the world around him. “Look at the birds,” he says. “Consider the lilies.” “The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.” “When the fig tree begins to leaf out you know the summer is near.”

Regarding his focus on people, just one of many examples---Last week we read about him in the temple being impressed not by the space itself but by the widow’s fearlessness in giving her last three cents to the treasury.

The Temple in Jerusalem WAS impressive by most standards of the day. One of the most impressive buildings in that part of the world. I’ve been to the Kaufman Center several times but still walk through the doors there and say “wow!” right? Many people, when they enter our sanctuary space say “wow this is really a lovely space.” So our friend, one of Jesus’ disciples here who is unnamed, is saying something very appropriate for the moment. “Look at these massive stones!”

Which prompts Jesus’ reply. “All will be thrown down my friend.” Jesus, whose soul is full to overflowing with the Divine, is taking a bird’s eye view of things here. Sure, when you are right up close to the Temple, it’s impressive. But step back, step away, and it can quickly seem less so. Do one of those Google effects which takes you up and up and up and away from the ground level of things.

A child spends an afternoon at the beach building a marvelous sandcastle. She is so proud and delighted in her accomplishment! “Look Dad! Look Grandma!”---whoever might be there, and we squeal with her about the results of her hard work and her creativity. And because she is a child we spare her the bad news in this situation. We don’t bluntly say, “You know sweetie the tide is coming in soon and it’s gonna utterly flatten that sandcastle.”

But Jesus’ disciple is not a child, and Jesus is anything but subtle here. “All will be thrown down my friend.” When bluntness is called for, Jesus could be blunt. It must have been a little shocking to hear him say this. It would have been even more shocking to the Sanhedrin, the Council, to hear Jesus say, “Destroy this temple and after three days I will raise it up.”

A quantum leap in the evolution of human spiritual consciousness is being inaugurated in our text today. Jesus comes into Jerusalem to audaciously announce an end to the idea of temples being exclusive containers for the Divine. In 1952 JB Phillips published a best seller entitled YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL. This is what Jesus is coming to announce...an end to the primitive idea that we can house the Divine in a temple made with human hands. Then he points his listeners to a radical idea at the time which we in the church more or less take as a given now, that He is a temple---and that we are temples... the dwelling place of the Divine is in every human soul, not made with human hands. When you get a bunch of people together who know this, like we do, it’s Divine isn’t it? Lovely, welcoming, gracious, non-judgmental, healing, renewing, wise, hopeful.

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. (Sunday School Song)

The disciples were in a locked room, nondescript, when the risen Christ breathed over them his Holy Spirit. They were having breakfast on the beach with him. Two disciples were walking to Emmaus when he came alongside them. The risen Christ told Mary to tell the disciples not to meet him at the temple, but to go out to Galilee and he would meet them there.

God is able to show up any time and any place-----every person and every place on earth and every moment in time are holy now. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple marking off God's dwelling place was ripped in two.

We continue to this day, of course, to build sacred spaces...not to contain God, but to intentionally work together on deepening our sensitivity to the God who is in every person and in all things and who would fill us, body mind and soul, with all the fullness of God's presence.

God is at work, God has always been at work, and God will continue to be at work creating a world of open hearted people and communities. It's a labor of love on God's part and on ours. "It's going to take a while," Jesus says here. "It's going to take a while for nations and kingdoms to stop rising up against each other." But a new world of love and justice is even now being born.

Two quotes to share as we close:

When you are going through hell, keep going

Winston Churchill

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

November 18, 2018

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Jesus says "I am the Way for you."

AND SO WE COME TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Jesus says "I am the Truth for you."

AND SO WE COME TO DWELL IN THE LIGHT

Jesus says "I am the Life for you."

AND SO WE COME, LEAVING BEHIND ALL ELSE TO WHICH WE CLING

Lighting of the Candles

"Take time to see the quiet miracles that seek no attention" John O'Donohue

717 Let All Things Now Living

We Welcome One Another as Christ

714 For the Fruit of all Creation

The Morning Prayer and Choral Response

Silence

"The seed is in the ground. Now may we rest in hope while darkness does its work." Wendell Berry

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Love Creating, Grace Abounding, Peace Abiding

PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE YOUR WORD, AMEN

THE GOSPEL Mark 13: 1-8

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "Trust the Slow Work" Rev. Rob Carr

Let our fears give way to wonder, and our illusions scatter like dry leaves.

Let our ignorance surrender to wisdom and our delusions fade like noontime shadows.

In this way, may we reclaim the Truth, and find ourselves no longer apart--

but rather a part of You, Who are All. Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

Men's Ensemble "Halleluia For The Day"

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

414 Eat This Bread 3X

Welcome to the Table

In Communion we turn to the God who is peace and we are joined to One who loves us,
who disarms our hearts of every divisive impulse

AND SENDS US ON A MISSION OF DISARMING LOVE

In Communion we are learning to recognize everyone as beloved of God.

God gives the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the good and the bad

GOD IS COMPASSIONATE TO EVERYONE

In Communion our imagination is restored

AND WE RECEIVE A MISSION TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO IMAGINE

A RECONCILED, HEALED WORLD.

In Communion the Reign of God is proclaimed

WE ARE ALL ONE

The Words of Institution

The Communion Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin
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.**

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

276 We Gather Together

Our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast, and our mouths praise you with joyful lips

IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS WE SING FOR JOY! AMEN

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

**We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope
you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon
your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the
Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is
available via Facebook and these websites**

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK FOLLOWS WORSHIP TODAY

Monday 6PM Troop 900
Monday 6PM NOCC Board
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900

UPCOMING

Sunday December 2 Congregational Meeting Following Worship
Sunday December 9 5PM Talent Show
Sunday December 23 1015AM
NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry
of our friends at CHERITH BROOK.
Baking Soda, Sugar, Creamer, Dish Soap, Rice, Salt and Pepper, Tissues, Toilet Paper,
Deodorant, Razors, Toothbrushes, Feminine Products, Ibuprofen and Tylenol,
Shower Gel, Sleeping Bags.
Special Need: An Industrial Refrigerator.

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light.
Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.