

Luke 12: 32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those servants.

But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Word of Life

THANKS BE TO GOD

The awakened heart is like a luminous sphere, just giving without thought to any who may come close or gaze at it. The soul becomes blessedly lost to all but its own holy being.

When we cannot be who we are, our divine senses become mute, mute and sick from the insanity of judging what God made Immaculate.

Meister Eckhart

I am a hole in a flute that the Christ’s breath moves through---listen to this music

Hafiz

“I won’t take no for an answer,” God began to say to me,
when he opened his arms each night wanting us to dance.

Catherine of Sienna

Almost all the time when you are getting ready to leave the house you check to make sure you have your cell phone and your wallet/purse of course right? We feel naked without them. Here's a flashback that came to me-----during my adolescence I felt naked leaving the house without a comb in my back pocket. (now I cannot recall when I last held a comb in my hand.) Now it's my phone.

What if you felt naked, un-ready, not fully equipped for the day if you had not spent some time in prayer? You know, of course, that I am not talking about a quick prayer whispered as you are filling your coffee thermos and headed out the door-----though that's better than nothing.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The naked feeling, the feeling of something missing, leaving the house without our daily prayer time (or similarly, before going to bed if this is your usual time for prayer) can feel like this for example-----it might be like the feeling of not having had a more than a cursory interaction with a spouse or family member or friend in quite some time-----mainly because of busyness---you realize you are missing that connection, there is an emptiness there to be filled.

So it's not the pocket that's empty, it's your heart, your soul. I think this is what Jesus is coveting for us when he talks about priorities as he does here, when he talks about heavenly purses. Jesus is wanting us to have the same kind of relationship with God that he has. He is wanting us to know the God he knows. It's your Father's good pleasure, the Father's delight to give you the kingdom. And it's the Father's delight when we open our hearts to receive it, it's the Father's delight when we realize we are missing that connection.

Jesus, here in chapter 12, is moving toward Jerusalem, as we have been saying in recent weeks. He has set his face toward Jerusalem and as he contemplates God's call upon his life he is continuing to urge his friends and disciples to contemplate God's call on their lives as well.

We've seen a thematic thread in the readings of recent weeks that Jesus is wanting his Disciples to understand-----when it comes to living into the fullness of who God is calling us to become, we are to relinquish power, relinquish control. In last week's reading about the man who built extra barns for his stuff, Jesus critiques our need for control. So relinquishment is very much what Jesus is being about as he moves toward Jerusalem and as he forms his disciples.

Thomas Merton has a great image for this. He asks us to consider how an apple becomes fully ripe. The answer? It sits in the sun. The sun does the work. Likewise in our aspirations to become fully ripened, fully alive in Christ, therefore fully ourselves, God does the work. Our job is to hold ourselves open to this grace, this treasure, this kingdom that is given.

This is what the servants are doing in our text today. It's not effortless. Waiting with alertness is not easy. But this is the epitome of spiritual practice right here. A fabulous

image. Holding yourself open, day by day, waiting with alertness. This is the epitome of faith and love.

Faith----I know the Master is coming

Love----I will wait as long as it takes for the Master to come

And then comes the knock on the door. A knock heard only by those who have kept their lamps lit.

The poets, the mystics, the artists, have heard the knock and they sing it, they paint it, they write about it, and they teach us what hearing that knock of the master sounds like and looks like...and that the master's presence is there to be seen and heard all the time if we are keeping our lamps lit.

“I have seen what you want, it is there, a Beloved of infinite tenderness.” Catherine of Sienna.

“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those servants.”

Then Jesus gives another little twist on this-----if the owner of the house knew when the thief was coming he would not have let his house be broken into. But we WANT the thief to come-----I am seeing the thief and the master as the same person, Jesus elsewhere likens himself as a thief right? We WANT our houses to be broken into... if we knew when the thief was coming we'd brace for it, we'd be defensive, and deny him access-----what a tragedy.

It is the Fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom, to equip you to be a person through whom the music of the Gospel of grace can be sung in a culture of soul draining noise.

Sit, watch, wait, listen for the knock on the door, and marvel as the master enters to be of service to you, to give you the Kingdom.

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

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLS OF CHRIST

August 11, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Radiant One, focus your light within us

MAKE IT USEFUL, AS THE RAYS OF A BEACON, SHOW THE WAY

Help us let go, clear the space inside of busy forgetfulness

IN PEACE YOUR EVER LIVING SPIRIT RESIDES WITHIN US

Lighting of the Candles

"Every sound I hear, He made it." Rumi

59 This is My Father's World

We Welcome One Another as Christ

259 Spirit of the Living God 2X

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Sit quiet for a minute, let Light touch you." Catherine of Sienna

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

Search us God, and know our hearts

SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN US, AND LEAD US TO THE WAY EVERLASTING

THE GOSPEL LUKE 12: 32-40

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 "Keep Your Lamp Lit" Rev. Rob Carr

Create your reign of unity now, Gracious One, through our fiery hearts and willing hands.

May your counsel rule our lives. Unite our "I can" to yours, as our arms reach out to embrace all creation. Amen.

Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving

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.

430 Lo I Am With You

Healed are those who weep for their frustrated desire
THEY SHALL SEE THE FACE OF FULFILLMENT IN A NEW FORM
Tuned to the Source are those feeling deeply confused
THEY SHALL BE RETURNED FROM THEIR WANDERING
Aligned with the One are the mourners
THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

Blessed are those who plant peace in each season
THEY SHALL BE NAMED THE CHILDREN OF GOD
Blessed are those who strike the note that unites
THEY SHALL BE REMEMBERED AS RAYS OF THE ONE

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. Take a piece of the loaf, and dip it in the cup as it is offered. 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"

431 Go My Children With My Blessing

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**AND TO LIVE OUR LIVES SO THAT THOSE TO WHOM LOVE IS A STRANGER
MAY FIND IN US GENEROUS FRIENDS**

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 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

Monday 6PM Mulch Party
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 9:45AM Men's Bible Group
Wednesday 1PM Vital Conversations "Why Religion?" by Elaine Pagels
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer
Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

UPCOMING

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Join us NEXT SUNDAY at Smithville Lake for the Baptism of our good friend Howard Dolginoff.
Directions to our usual place at the lake are in the NOCC Newsletter

CELEBRATION SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Our annual brown bag lunch celebration with a blessing of backpacks and recognition of teachers is scheduled for August 18. Wonderful opportunity to invite a friend!

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM

Interactive Workshop led by Lori Hall
Part One being offered again on Friday, September 6th 6PM to 9PM and
Saturday September 7th 9AM to 2PM
Sign ups will begin in August!
Part Two will be offered sometime this Fall.