

JESUS OF NAZARETH
LIVING SENT
MATTHEW 10:2-42
5-10-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light. We will continue to light the candle until we meet again.

Reflect

The church is not so much attractational as it is attractive. The gospel is lived in a way that is visible to, engaging in and redeeming of the surrounding context. It must inhabit and discern and capture and heal as well as bless the surrounding community with its presence as Christ's body. In this way it becomes a visible foretaste of the Kingdom that is coming. –David Fitch

Welcome

Good morning! Today is also Mother's Day. As we gather apart this week, let us remember one another – especially all the moms. Let us also remember that for some ladies, this is an especially difficult day and is not as happy as Hallmark wants it to be. Let us remember faces. Let us remember laughs. Let us remember unique mannerisms. Let us remember hugs and smiles. Take some time to say out loud all the names of the people you know at CCRC.

Let also remember that we are experiencing this time differently. Some are deeply enjoying the change (even while longing for community). Others may be struggling in different ways. Some of us may need a little more hope right now because we are feeling down and depressed. Some of us may need an extra dose of love because we are feeling alone and literally, untouchable. Some of us may need a boost of faith because we are struggling with doubt and temptations. However, all of us need more awareness of and engagement with the presence of Jesus in our lives. As the apostle John said, he must increase and I must decrease. May you receive what you need this week in Christ Jesus, whether that is through song or music, scripture or prayer or maybe in a quiet moment of reflection. May we remember and experience the presence of Christ Jesus who is here with us through the Holy Spirit. So....

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance. Amen.

Candle Lighting – Light the candle again this week as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the world!

And so are we as his disciples. Jesus says,

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16

Call to Christ: John 17:13–23 – May we be a light to the world and image Christ as he imaged the Father.

But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.



I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

May our first song this morning center us even more in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the Lamb worthy to be praised as King, as Savior, and as Messiah.

Song: What A Beautiful Name / Agnus Dei -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsCdOhDqc74>

You were the Word at the beginning; one with God the Lord Most High.

Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You our Christ.

What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is!

The name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this!

What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us, so, Jesus, You brought heaven down.

My sin was great, Your love was greater; what could separate us now?

What a wonderful name it is, what a wonderful name it is!

The name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a wonderful name it is, nothing compares to this!

What a wonderful name it is, the name of Jesus.

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You;

You silenced the boast of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,

For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal; now and forever, God, You reign.

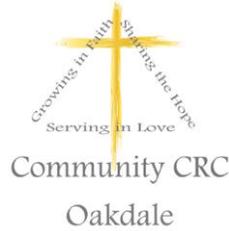
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory, Yours is the Name above all names!

What a powerful name it is, what a powerful name it is!

The name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a powerful name it is, nothing can stand against!

What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus.



*You have no rival, You have no equal; now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory, Yours is the Name above all names!*

*Holy, holy, are You Lord, God Almighty!
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb!
'Cause You are holy, holy, are You Lord, God Almighty!
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb!
You are holy.*

*What a beautiful name it is, what a beautiful name it is!
The name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this!
What a beautiful name it is, the name of Jesus.*

Psalm of Praise: Psalm 135

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast; who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants; who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings, Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan, and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel.

Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages. For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them.

O house of Israel, bless the Lord! O house of Aaron, bless the Lord! O house of Levi, bless the Lord! You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!

Blessed be the Lord from Zion, he who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

Song: Great Are You Lord -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKzXZPFBwLQ>

*You give life, You are love. You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, You restore. Every heart that is broken.
Great are You, Lord!*

*It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise!
It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only.*



You give life, You are love. You bring light to the darkness.

You give hope, You restore. Every heart that is broken.

Great are You, Lord!

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise!

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only.

And all the earth will shout Your praise!

Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing!

Great are You, Lord!

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise!

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only.

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

Please watch this short video of why we give (geared for youth but good for all):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWf8gty3w84>

What about giving/tithing stood out to you?

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration

Our youth are important to CCRC because of their presence and active participation. Over the next several weeks, we will celebrate one particular way they powerfully contribute to our community to help nurture and shape our discipleship culture. (Adapted from Shane Stacey)

Children and youth are intrinsically valuable as ones made in the image of God and are a visible sign of the extended mercy of God.

In our culture, youth are often idolized, marginalized or, worse yet, merchandised. Their value is based on how they benefit society, a particular agenda or add to the bottom line. But youth are not valuable because of their potential R.O.I. (return on investment). When our motivation to connect with youth is driven by their potential as future leaders, we neglect giving them the dignity they deserve. Their value does not come from their potential. Youth have value because they are made in the image of God. An intrinsic value rests in youth based on their mere personhood.

Beyond this, the birth of each new generation is a sign of the continued mercy and long suffering of God who waits “for the full number of Gentiles to come into” the family of God (Romans 11:25).

Children and youth connect us to the grace of God. They are a sign of God’s perseverance.

Scripture Reading

We are continuing our series, Jesus of Nazareth by marinating in the Gospel according to Matthew. We have already soaked in much: Jesus’ birth, baptism, and temptations; his magnificent sermon on the mount in which he showed us that we are blessed because the kingdom of God has been graciously given to us in Christ Jesus and that because of this good news, we are to listen to Jesus and do the good works he calls us to do in his name; his authoritative touch of grace from which flows healing, restoration, forgiveness and the undoing of sin and its effects. Jesus of Nazareth. There is no one like him.



Last week we talked about being a laborer for the harvest and looked at people like Emmanuel, Johanna Veenstra and ultimately ourselves as missionaries for Jesus either locally or globally. This morning we are going to dive deeper into being a missionary of the gospel. In our passage from chapter 10, Jesus sends out his 12 disciples with instructions on what to do and what to expect. While this sending was specific to that particular context, we too can learn what it means to Live Sent as disciples of Jesus today.

Please read Matthew 10:2-42.

Let's pray this "collect" for the mission of the Church (From the Book of Common Prayer) as we prepare our hearts to engage with God's holy, inspired and authoritative Word:

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Message: SENT

Let's start with a question that we will come back to at the end. How many people have you led to Christ? With that question floating in the back of your mind, think of a time when you were sent somewhere by someone..... Notice that being sent involves four things: (1) a sender, (2) a sent one, (3) a place sent to and (4) a mission sent with. Now think of one of the branches of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) and how individual, small groups and large groups are sent. What difference does it make that a military person knows and believes in their mission? What happens when there is lack of awareness of the mission, confusion or doubt? Think about this in terms of the 4 aspects of sending above.

Jesus does not lack awareness; he is not confused nor does he have any doubt about who he is and what he was sent for. He knows that he was sent to carry out a mission. He knows that he was sent by the Father to carry out the plan of redemption. He knows that he is sent to redeem God's people, the true Israel and begin the expanding of this redeemed community into what we call the Church as a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that the world would be blessed through him. This community of believers today has a mission just like Jesus. They would be sent out just like he was into the world to be a blessing to it and to give witness to God's redemptive plan in and through Jesus Christ through both word and deed.

In verses 2-4, Matthew gives us the names of the 12 people Jesus invested his time and efforts in to train to carry on his missional work. As disciples, they are to listen, learn and shape their lives to match and image their master, Jesus of Nazareth. That is what it means to be a disciple. Thus far, Jesus has taught them much about himself and the kingdom of God and has demonstrated his authoritative grace to do what he says. But now he is going to move beyond having them watch and listen; he is going to send them out with the same authority that he has over demons and disease. When Jesus sends them out (Luke says he sends them in pairs – I wonder who had Judas Iscariot?), they become not just disciples, but apostles too. An apostle is one who is sent out as an ambassador of Jesus. That is what the word "apostle" means. Jesus sends them into the nearby towns to preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand and to demonstrate this by healing and casting out demons.

What about us today? Are we sent also? And to whom? For the first 1600 years of the Church, the word



“mission” was used exclusively to describe the missional activity of the Trinity: The Father sending Jesus the Son and both Father and Son sending the Holy Spirit. Our God both sends and is sent! Our God is a missional God! It wasn’t until the Jesuits began using the word mission to describe the work of the church during the Reformation that it became connected with disciples of Jesus. Rightfully so. We too are sent into the world as salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16); as ambassadors of Jesus and ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:20-22); as a witness (Acts 1:8) and as Christ was sent (John 20:21). Thus, to be a disciple of Jesus is to also be an apostle, one who is sent -- whether it is to family members, co-workers, fellow students, friends, neighbors or strangers locally and globally as image bearers of Jesus. That is, we are to always be re-presenting Jesus as best we can in our spheres of influence and based on our maturity in faith as a disciple of Jesus. When you think of the next 100 people to join Community CRC, who do you think of.....? Some of us may only be thinking of folks at other churches that we hope to come back here. Others may only be thinking of people who look like us, talk like us and have the same customs as we do. How many of us are thinking of marginalized people, poor people or people with a different skin color or race?

So yes, we are sent out today and we are sent as witnesses of Jesus and his kingdom here on earth. We are sent out for the next 100. But how are we sent out? How were the first disciples sent out? Jesus instructs them to go out and find a person of peace and accept their hospitality. But if they only receive hostility, they are to move on, literally shaking the dust off their feet as they leave. Why! Their mission was to be a mission of peace and if peace was not there, they were not to fight, belittle, call people names, be mean or try to force them to accept the message. Hmmm.... there seems to be a lot of harshness, hostility, name-calling and meanness on social media right now. What might we learn from Jesus about how we go about with our message of the kingdom?

The disciples were also not responsible for the results but only for carrying out the mission of proclaiming and demonstrating that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Whether the message was received or rejected, they were successful in their mission of proclaiming and demonstrating if they were credible and coherent. The same is true for us. We are not responsible for the response to the good news of Jesus, only for proclaiming it and demonstrating its truth in our lives. So, how many people have you led to Christ? Based on what we just said, we can hopefully say, “All of them!” Why! Because evangelism is not intrinsically about conversion but about witness, credible and coherent witness. If we do this, then we will be leading everyone to Christ (the central message of evangelism is Jesus of Nazareth). What they do with that is up to them – receive or reject. We hope for conversion but realize it is not necessary for us to be successful in witness. Every martyr can loudly attest to this!

Jesus does not hold anything back from the 12 as they are sent out. He warns them that they are like sheep engaging with wolves and therefore must be “wise” as a snake and “innocent” as a dove. What does he mean? Well, snakes are one of the more “aware” creatures on earth. That is, they are very aware of their surroundings and when danger might be approaching and to hide or warn if danger gets too close. They don’t want to fight. And doves are a symbol of peace and gentleness. They also are not instigators of hostility, violence and conflict. However, hostility and persecution will come because of the nature of the mission and message; it is not to come because of a hostile or self-righteous nature of the person.

A disciple’s message and demonstration of the kingdom confronts the empires of the world with the truth that they are not ultimate; that the King and the kingdom of God has arrived in Christ and that all



other empires are inferior and subordinate. This does not sit well with God's enemies, individually or corporately who have not been touched by the authoritative and regenerating and saving grace of God through the Holy Spirit. Amidst the possibility of hostility, the disciples are instructed to not be anxious and not to fear. Why? Because they are valuable to God. God cares for little birds and he even numbers each hair on our heads. Have faith in him and his promises, not of escape, ease and comfort but of eternal salvation and kingdom inheritance in Jesus Christ. He is sovereign so we are to trust! So, whatever we do, we do not deny Christ to others. No matter if that generates hospitality or hostility. What makes you most nervous about being missional for Jesus? How does these words help us battle this?

Jesus lays down some more hard truth.... He tells them that the message of the kingdom of heaven will spark hostility not just from strangers but even between family members; enemies will be in the same household. Some of you know this all too well...and it hurts. Jesus gets at the heart of the issue – misdirected love. People, including family members may love other people, including family members more than him. This he says, makes a person not worthy of him. Why? Because Jesus is not just another human being. He is fully God and fully man. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is the one to whom everyone will bend their knee to. Jesus reminds us that he is more important than even our family members and that regardless of what other family members might do or say, we are to take up our cross of suffering and remain faithful to Jesus in word and deed. Our mission to give witness to Jesus goes on at home and out there, until our dying breath. And then, reward!

Jesus speaks about rewards in the last verses of this chapter to those who receive the message and the messenger. Why are they rewarded? They are rewarded because when they receive the message and the messenger, they receive Jesus and when they receive Jesus, they receive the Father who sent Jesus. This is salvation – receiving the gracious gift of God's forgiveness and acceptance in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Note that the mission of imaging Jesus is not about us nor even the next 100 people. Ultimately it is about the Father and his love for his world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.

Let's Pray: Heavenly Father, We pray for the next 100 people to become a part of Community CRC. May we trust you as our Sender. May we trust Jesus as the sent One and as the one we re-present. May we trust the sent Holy Spirit who unites us with Jesus and empowers and equips us to be his disciples and witnesses. Give us your eyes to see those who need you and give us your heart of compassion to reach out in love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Communion Meditation

Professing: (Nicene Creed) – note the missional tone of this creed in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.



And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

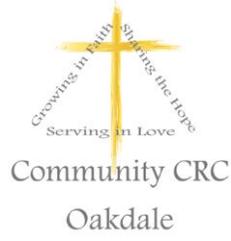
Proclaiming (1 Corinthians 11:23b-25) – Paraphrased

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, “this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, “this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Jesus was sent to live the perfect life we could not and to die the death that we deserved so that we might be saved in him and receive eternal life with him. What does communion say about our sending into the world like Jesus? How does this next song inspire courage?

Song: Same Power -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON-DfeSLfxY>

*I can see waters raging at my feet.
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me.
I can hear the sound of nations rising up.
We will not be overtaken we will not be overcome.
I can walk down this dark and painful road.
I can face every fear of the unknown.
I can hear all God's children singing out.
We will not be overtaken we will not be overcome.
The same power that rose Jesus from the grave.
The same power that commands the dead to wake.
Lives in us, lives in us.
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks.
The same power that can calm a raging sea.
Lives in us, lives in us. He lives in us, lives in us
We have hope that His promises are true.
In His strength there is nothing we can't do.
Yes, we know there are greater things in store.
We will not be overtaken we will not be overcome.
The same power that rose Jesus from the grave.
The same power that commands the dead to wake.
Lives in us, lives in us.
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks.
The same power that can calm a raging sea.
Lives in us, lives in us. He lives in us, lives in us
Greater is He that is living in me. He's conquered our enemy.
No power of darkness, no weapon prevails.
We stand here in victory!
Greater is He that is living in me. He's conquered our enemy.*



*No power of darkness, no weapon prevails.
We stand here in victory!*

*The same power that rose Jesus from the grave.
The same power that commands the dead to wake.
Lives in us, lives in us.*

*The same power that moves mountains when He speaks.
The same power that can calm a raging sea.
Lives in us, lives in us. He lives in us, lives in us.*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

May our sending take on a deeper meaning and appreciation. May we have a growing faith in our Sender, a deeper love for those we are sent to and stronger hope in Jesus' promise of final restoration.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!