



**JESUS OF NAZARETH**  
**FAMILY TIES**  
**MATTHEW 12:38-50**  
**5-31-20**

**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**

“If therefore our houses be houses of the Lord, we shall for that reason love home, reckoning our daily devotion the sweetest of our daily delights; and our family-worship the most valuable of our family-comforts... A church in the house will be a good legacy, nay, it will be a good inheritance, to be left to your children after you.” -Matthew Henry

**Welcome**

Good Morning! Today is Pentecost Sunday -- a very important day in history. **Pentecost means 50, referring to the 50 days since Jesus conquered death by entering into life after life after death.**

Pentecost is the day that Jesus had told the disciples to wait for and the reason why it was “good” for Jesus to leave and return to the Father. This is the day the Father and the Son sends the Holy Spirit to apply Jesus’ saving work to his elect to enliven, empower and equip them to be disciples of Jesus and give witness to him everywhere. It is by the Holy Spirit that we call God our Father (Romans 8:15):

**For we did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”**

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 at this time as a reminder that God is Light (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)!

Light is mysterious and fascinating! Yet, it is often something that we take for granted. Light constantly and without change moves at the same speed. Light, no matter where or how fast you are traveling, will always be traveling at the exact same velocity. Light also obeys the uncertainty principle by acting like a particle and a wave, matter and energy! It truly is amazingly mysterious! So is the Holy Spirit who empowers and equips us to be like Jesus, light to the world (Matthew 5:14). But like light, we may take the Holy Spirit for granted. May we celebrate the majesty, power, mystery and glory of the Holy Spirit as “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” (Nicene Creed).

**Call to Worship: Revelation 5:11-13**

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!**” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”



**Yes! Jesus is worthy of our worship. May we celebrate his glory this morning!**

**Song:** Is He Worthy -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c6pl6CaiD0>

*Do you feel the world is broken? (We do) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)*

*Is all creation groaning? (It is) Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is.*

*Does the Father truly love us? (He does) Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave;  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.*

*From every people and tribe (People and tribe)  
Every nation and tongue (Every nation and tongue)  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this?*

*He is, He is. Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
He is, He is. He is worthy, He is worthy.  
He is.*

**Psalm of Praise: Psalm 146**

**Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

**Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.



**The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

**Song:** My Jesus I Love Thee -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlZrKs8yr4>

*My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine.  
For thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou.  
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus tis now.  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb;  
The Lamb that was slain, Holy, Holy!  
Jesus I will sing, sing of your Holy name.  
I love thee because thou hast first loved me.  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.  
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow.  
If ever I loved thee my Jesus tis now.  
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the lamb;  
The Lamb that was slain, Holy, Holy!  
Jesus I will sing, sing of your Holy name.  
In mansions of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore thee in Heaven so bright.  
I'll sing with a glittering crown on my brow.  
If ever I loved thee my Jesus tis now.*

**Song:** Hymn of the Holy Spirit -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgguVaGqHE8>

*Holy Spirit, guide my vision, help me see the way You see.  
Always Jesus, ever Jesus, Christ in all is Christ in me.  
Holy Spirit, guide my speaking, words of grace in truth abound.  
Let my lips be filled with stories of the mercy that I've found.  
You're the light, You're my path; You're the shepherd of my soul.  
All I am, all I have; Holy Spirit, lead me on.  
Holy Spirit, guide my hearing, wake my ears to words You speak.  
In the thunder and the stillness, let Your voice be clear in me.  
You're the light, You're my path; You're the shepherd of my soul.  
All I am, all I have; Holy Spirit, lead me on.  
Holy Spirit, lead me onward, walking through the great unknown.  
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging till the day You lead me home  
Oh, guide my feet. Oh, guide my feet.  
Lead me on, lead me on, Lord  
Holy Spirit, open up my eyes. Holy Spirit, open up my heart  
Open up my ears. Onwards You show me where You lead me.  
I will follow.*



*You're the light, You're my path; You're the shepherd of my soul.  
All I am, all I have; Holy Spirit, lead me on.*

**Reading of the Law: Exodus 20:1–17**

Reading the Law used to be a regular part of the Sunday service. But it has fallen on hard times. Why? Well, partly because the Law and our total depravity dominated the emphasis of the service to such a degree that the gospel was not heard when spoken or worse, was only assumed. The purpose of reading the Law is good – to remind us that we are sinners in need of God’s saving grace and to show how God desires for us to live. It was meant to humble us and counter pride because none of us can keep the law perfectly, which is what God requires for salvation. Even those who believed they had their act together and believed they were morally upright and outstanding citizens would have a difficult time when confronted with the Law. **Law helps us to see and understand and experience grace more powerfully and fully.**

Because CCRC provides a strong emphasis on the gospel of Jesus Christ, we need Law to show us why this is Good News. Therefore, we will be engaging the Law in our liturgy/service a little more regularly and intentionally. Please read responsively Exodus 20:1-17:

And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**“You shall have no other gods before me.**

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.**

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.**

“You shall not murder.

**“You shall not commit adultery.**

“You shall not steal. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”**

Reflect a moment on how you have fallen short and sinned this week, this morning, this hour.



Then pray:

**Heavenly Father, we mourn the fact that we live in and contribute to a fallen world, maybe more than we care to admit. While the news shows us things “out there”, we know from your Word and from our experiences that the problem of sin is also “right here”, in us. We confess that we cannot and do not keep your law as we should. We murder with our thoughts and words. We commit adultery in our hearts. We practice idolatry with the things or people we can sometimes hold higher than you. We covet, we steal, we bear false witness and more. We are disobedient and apart from Your saving grace provided through the finished work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we are lost, guilty and condemned. So thank you for your amazing grace. Thank you for your freedom providing love. Thank you for not giving up on me, on us and on this world. Thank you for being for us in Christ. May we continue to center our hearts and minds on him through the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Offering**

Giving has always been a form of worship in the Bible, and we are commanded to honor and glorify God in this way. Proverbs 3:9 says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” God doesn’t need anything from us ([Acts 17:25](#)), but he is glorified when the Holy Spirit stirs our hearts to give to him out of delight for who he is and what he has done.

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

(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 not just the next generation, their presence and participation are vital for the health of our church community today. We have been looking at core reasons why this is true; they are image bearers of God; they are passionate and energetic and they are agents of ministry now. A fourth reason is their “relational impetus.” Teenagers remind the broader church that relationships, rather than structures, are the conduit for gospel movement (this is adapted from Shane Stacey).

As our lives get more complicated and organizations age, it is easy for the structures to become the focus. You hear it said, “**Kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.**” In youth ministry, no relationships equals no ministry. Programs and events are a springboard for relationships, but much of the real “ministry” takes place out in everyday life. While we never outgrow relationships as the means for faith development, it seems we feel we can manage without them as adults, as long as we have good content.

However, Jesus modeled for us on earth that relationships are the conduit for discipling. He invested intentionally in a few. The relational impetus of youth reminds the church that the conduit for gospel advancement and gospel growth is and continues to be intentional relationships.

### **Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:38-50**

Jesus is confronting the lost, hard-hearted, legalistic, merciless, the spirit of Jesus is Satan believing Pharisees, calling them vipers and evil and warning them of the unforgiveable sin. This was in response to their refusal to believe that Jesus was for them and not against them; that Jesus was Satan and not the Son of God. In our passage today, this same crowd responds to Jesus by asking him to prove himself by giving them some kind of sign that would convince them of who he is. Jesus doesn’t bite but offers



them the greatest evidence the world will ever know, his upcoming death and resurrection.

He then addresses his generation again, exposing the worsening condition of their legalistic culture that we know culminates in the public execution of the Son of God. These legalists are clearly not part of the family of God even though they think they are because of their Jewish heritage as descendants of Abraham. Jesus then declares who his real family is. A key question to keep in mind is, "What does Jesus say characterizes being 'in the family?'"

Please read Matthew 12:38-50.

### **Gospel Message:** Family Ties

What makes a family? United States case law defines "family" as "a group of persons connected by blood or by affinity or through law within two or three generations", or "a group that consists of parents and their children", or "a group of persons living together and having a shared commitment to a domestic partnership." What do you think of those definitions? What do you agree with? Disagree with? What is missing?

In verses 38-45, Jesus is in a house wrapping up a confrontation with the Pharisees and Scribes. They recognize that he is a teacher (v. 38) but think he is demonic and Satanic. They now want Jesus to do something (a sign) that would change their mind. What they don't realize and the reason I believe that Jesus does not oblige them is that **Jesus is the sign!** Everything about him. His words that never lie but always speaks truth with love; his actions in which he always does what was morally right with mercy and compassion; his healing, raising the dead and casting out demons; his authoritative knowledge and perfect obedience to God's law and his fulfilling prophecy after Old Testament prophecy regarding the long-awaited for Messiah. Jesus is God incarnate right in front of them! Fully God and fully human, mysteriously one in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus, as living sign, can offer nothing greater for them to see in order to believe than himself. However, he does point them to the "sign of Jonah". Jesus is saying that if they want proof that he is the Messiah, then wait to see what he will do in the near future.

Jesus is focusing on his identity and revealing himself as the Messiah. He says that he is "someone greater than Jonah." You remember Jonah, the prophet who was called by God to go to the secular city of Nineveh over 500 miles away and "call out against it"; the one who defied God by going to Tarshish, the opposite direction of Nineveh and some 2,500 miles the other way; the one who learned he was the cause of the storm that was threatening to sink their ship; the one who told the captain to throw him into the raging waters to calm the storm; the one who was tossed and swallowed by a big fish; the one who stayed inside the fish for three, I imagine, very long days before being vomited out alive; the one who finally comes to his senses and goes to Nineveh like he was originally supposed to do and preaches against it; the one who gets very angry when Nineveh listens and repents (because the Ninevites were the enemies of the Jews); the one who unjustly complains to the point of wanting to die about a shade tree that he had no control over – yes, that Jonah. **Just as Jonah was three days in the belly of the fish so Jesus would be three days in the belly of the earth. And, just like Jonah, he would emerge alive. However, Jesus is "someone greater than Jonah" who is now amongst them.** Take a few minutes to describe how Jesus is greater than Jonah.

Then, Jesus says that he is "someone greater than Solomon." You remember Solomon, the one who is the son of King David; the one who, when asked by God that whatever he wanted he could have, answered that he wanted wisdom to lead Israel; the one who built the magnificent temple for God; the



one who had 700 wives and 300 mistresses; the one who was influenced by his many pagan wives and mistresses to accept false gods; the one who becomes king despite being the youngest son; the one who wrote three books of the Bible (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon); the one of which the Queen of the South (Sheba) became overwhelmed by his wisdom and wealth – yes, that Solomon. **Just like Solomon, Jesus is wise and wealthy (heavenly) and is a king. However, Jesus is “someone greater than Solomon” who is now amongst them.** Talk about how Jesus is greater than Solomon.

Remember when we started this series, I mentioned that Matthew is intentionally drawing our attention to Jesus’ identity as THE Prophet, THE Priest and THE King. In referring to Jonah, the temple and Solomon and quoting Jesus saying that “someone greater than Jonah” (12:41), “something greater than the temple” (12:6) and “someone greater than Solomon is here” (12:42), Matthew makes this explicit in this one chapter! What Matthew is saying is that we are to trust Jesus as the supreme prophet, listen to Jesus as the supreme priest and submit to Jesus as the supreme king. For us today the “sign of Jonah” has been given, validating his authoritative truth and grace and love for his sinful and fallen world. The legalistic Pharisees and Scribes now have a decision to make, will they follow Jesus of Nazareth or not; will they be for him or against him; will they gather with him or scatter against him; will they fill themselves with the Holy Spirit or will they make more room for the enemy; will they be a part of his family or will they remain outside his family?

Well, unfortunately it doesn’t look good for that legalistic generation. Jesus provides a haunting illustration and description of his “evil generation” that isn’t encouraging. While many interpret this section through an individualistic lens, I think Jesus is utilizing a corporate lens here. He says at the end of verse 45, “So also will it be with this evil generation.” This is corporate and not individual. **The utilization of the individual serves to illustrate what is true corporately. In this case, Jesus is likely referring corporately to the legalistic, hard-hearted, merciless Pharisees.** Jesus is saying things are going to get worse, a lot worse. And, of course, we know it does. Their “evilness”, while appalling then (calling Jesus demonic), becomes horrific later. Jesus will be executed by these same hard-hearted, lost and merciless Pharisees. Based on Jesus’ story, their rejection of him creates increasing room for evil to live and thrive; to such a degree that the Son of God will be tortured and brutally killed. Despite their house (life) being swept and clean (moralistic, dutiful obedience to the law) they are empty and devoid of the Holy Spirit so that seven more demons are able to take up residence. Furthermore, when the sign of Jonah does appear with Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Pharisees don’t see it. Or more accurately, they reject it and deny it. Tying this in with last week, could it then be that the unforgivable sin is more a corporate sin rather than an individual sin? What might be some examples of corporate sins/evil/injustices in our society today that reject or deny Jesus of Nazareth in some way (think of the truths of Jesus, the way of Jesus and the life of Jesus)?

In the midst of this prophetic proclamation, Jesus’ family shows up! His mom, brothers and sisters come to the house and ask to speak to him since they could not get to him because of the crowd (Luke 8:19). One can only speculate why they are there. If you were Jesus’ biological parent, or brother or sister, why might you show up given what Jesus has been doing and what the Pharisees were saying about him? When Jesus is told his family is there, he turns it into a teachable moment! “Who are my mother and my brothers and sisters?”, Jesus asks. His answer probably doesn’t hit us with the same force it likely did for those in the room with him. **Jesus declares that those people around him, the ones who are listening to him and the ones who “do the will of God” are his real mother, brothers**



**and sisters.** Maybe you have taken it for granted that you are a “child of God” or part of God’s family because you grew up in a Christian home or because you prayed a prayer many moons ago or because you are a good person believing that your moralistic house is clean and all in order or because you go to church or a Christian school or.... But Jesus points to none of these things as the defining evidence of being in Jesus’ family. Our family tie to Jesus is made evident through what Jesus calls, “doing the will of God” or what the Apostle Paul calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5, 16:26). So, what is the “will of God” that is evidence of our family tie to Jesus? (Note, he is not saying that if you do God’s will, then you will earn your way into the family. Scripture makes it clear that we are in God’s family by grace and that our faithful obedience will give evidence of it.) The question about God’s will is a very important (and very big) question. In fact, every time we read the Bible, we learn something about it. However, there are a few things to say that might be helpful for you, either in the way of reminding or maybe learning the first time.

God desires for us to know his will and has revealed it to us according to his good pleasure. Ephesians 1:9 says, "And God made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ." The purpose of God’s will is, “in Christ.” That is, the will of God and Jesus Christ are intimately and vitally linked. Furthermore, in response to the question his disciples ask on another occasion, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus responds, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (John 6:28-29). In other words, these two verses echo what the entire Bible speaks towards, **that Jesus is the revealed will of God for us and for his creation. He is the sign. He is God’s will for us. If you want to know about God’s will, look to and believe in Jesus.** This is a simple but profound truth. How well do you know and believe in Jesus of Nazareth... his truths, his ways, his life? How well do you know his will for our lives (think both individually and corporately)?

I would be remiss if I didn’t unpack this a bit further. I know this is more challenging experientially than theologically and that there are layers to God’s revealed will ranging from the general to the more specific and from the obvious to the less obvious.

Sometimes, God makes his will very obvious. It is clearly God's will that we are to love him and love others as ourselves. Love is the grandest and most general expression of God’s will for us to do. It is the summary of all 613 laws in the Old Testament. On the more specific side, Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 and 5:16-18 gives examples of behavior that are God's will for us to do. "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The ten commandments that we read earlier are God’s clear will for us too. In fact, every command of God’s that is not culturally bound to a specific time is God’s will for us today.

**However, we all know that sometimes God's will is not always as clear as we would like.** In these instances, God directs us to seek His wisdom regarding the direction he would have us go. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." When we seek the Lord, the Holy Spirit will guide us and show us his path for us. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." When we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, then knowing his will is possible. When we are seeking our own will or the





will of the empire, then it is not.

What about knowing the will of God in more specific situations? Who should I marry? Which occupation should I pursue? Which college should I choose? In these cases, the Bible is not going to say marry this particular person nor tell you that you are to be a farmer and not an electrician. However, the Bible does give clear guidelines regarding core values and guiding principles for marriage and vocation (and other things too). For example, God gives this guideline for marriage: 2 Corinthians 6:14 says, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" It is crystal clear God's will is to not marry an unbeliever. So, if you are struggling to decide whether you should marry a particular person and they are not a disciple of Jesus and you know this verse or are made aware of it, then you are no longer struggling with knowing God's will, you are struggling with unbelief and disobedience to his revealed will and not living as a child of God or brother/sister to Jesus. This is the fight of faith Paul talks about.

Knowing core biblical guidelines and implementing the advice to seek his wisdom will go a long way towards bringing peace of mind in the decisions we make as we choose to follow Jesus of Nazareth within our spheres of influence today as his brothers and sisters. When we live harmoniously with God's revealed will for us, we act consistently with our identity as God's children and brothers and sisters to Jesus. Of course, none of us does this anywhere near perfectly. But that doesn't negate the deepening and strengthening of our family ties through faithful obedience. Take some time to think of the image of family and how each person contributes to its flourishing. What inhibits family flourishing? How might this inhibition become something that eventually strengthens the family tie? How does this inform and shape our understanding and practice of discipleship?

May we embrace and celebrate our identity as children of God, as brothers and sisters to Jesus of Nazareth by grace through faith in Jesus. May we continue to strengthen our family ties by learning, discerning and doing the will of God in our daily lives. And, may we be quick to repent and turn back to Jesus when we have gone astray, knowing that in him we are forgiven and in him we are restored.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are eternally grateful that we can call Jesus our brother and that we are a part of your family by grace through faith. May we live well as your children, seeking to do your will in our daily lives. May the prayer Jesus taught the disciples be our prayer today as we pray together: **Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.**

### **Communion Meditation**

In communion, we emphasize the presence *of* Christ and our participation *in* Christ as a means of grace that nourishes our souls and stirs to memory who Jesus is; what he has done and what he is doing for his sinful creatures. Communion is not just looking back in time but also looking in and looking out to the present and ongoing work of God and our participation in it today as agents of reconciliation, love, mercy, grace, truth and compassion. And we don't do this alone. We stand united in Christ throughout time and around the world. The Apostle's Creed has been a profession that Christians have embraced across numerous branches and denominations. Let's read it this morning, joining our brothers and sisters across the land as we seek justice, hope and for all people to be treated equally as image bearers of God.



Professing: (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven  
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

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."

Next week we will finally have the opportunity to participate in communion. How does the weekly rhythm of communion help keep us in the mindset of doing the will of God?

May the desire of this song, to know and be filled with Christ, be ours in increasing measure!

**Song:** Build My Life -- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4\\_8\\_zCBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE)

*Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing.*

*Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.*

*Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe.*

*We live for You, we live for You.*

*Jesus the name above ev'ry other name.*

*Jesus the only one who could ever save.*

*Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe.*

*We live for You, we live for You.*

*Holy there is no one like You, there is none beside You!*

*Open up my eyes in wonder, and show me who You are, and fill me with Your heart,*

*And lead me in Your love to those around me.*

*I will build my life upon Your love it is a firm foundation.*

*And I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken!*

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

As disciples of Jesus, we are his brothers and sisters by grace. May we seek, strive, pursue, search and desire to do God's will at work, at home, at school or in our neighborhood and city.

**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!**