

Sunday, November 7, 2021

We'd like to thank all who are joining us virtually on YouTube, Facebook, or our website. We welcome our radio audience on WCBC where this service will air next week at 9 a.m. We also welcome those joining us in the Parking lot via *fm92.3*.

Welcome to worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A few reminders of the goings on in our church and community... If you'd like to receive a weekly email letting you know what's coming up at LUMC simply call, email us, or reach us through social media and we will put you on the One Call Now list.
- Sunday School for all ages. Join us for breakfast at 9:30 a.m. [Register your kids here](#). Download the [Parent Cue](#) app for more involvement. A High School class is now available on Sunday morning. Join the youth on Sunday evening @ 6:30.
- October Mission Project – [Operation Christmas Child](#) Help cover mailing costs to send Shoeboxes overseas, \$9. You can give online.
- Dig out your coats from last year, because the United Methodist Women want to redistribute them. Donate for people in need in our area.
- November Mission Project – Thanksgiving Meal Baskets. Help provide a special meal for our neighbors who would not otherwise be able to celebrate, \$30. We will pack boxes on November 21.
- Local mission opportunity: [Maryland Poor People's Campaign: Western Region](#). Bible study with lunch on November 16. Join us!
- Red Cross Blood Drive – November 11, 1:30-7:00 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church.
- If you would like a "Just Be Kind" lawn sign (\$10), or a daily devotional book (free), please call the church office and request it.

Questions? Call the church office (301) 722-6800.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Those who have given your last dime, come.

Those who are holding back out of worry and fear, come.

Those who have given your all and have come up empty, come.

When you've weighed in and keep coming up short, do not worry.

When God's addition, subtraction, and multiplication is beyond our calculations and understanding, your wrestling is welcome. Choose not to live with clenched fists, holding back your gifts, and unable to open your hands to receive the abundance God has for you. Today, choose to wrestle with God about your lack, and ask God to open your hearts and hands to receive God's abundance.

PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you that you use our very minds and bodies to accomplish your purposes in this world. We call to mind the ones who are coming who will build upon the dreams and deeds that you have begun through us. Give us the grace to teach our children to know the LORD so that your heritage will continue through them. Build our homes and communities with strong foundations of great faith and peace that will outlast us and sustain those who come after us. We do not merely look to law enforcement and elected officials to watch over our city, but we ask that you set a guard over this city. May our descendants be the very arrows that defend the good works that you are doing on the earth. We will not live to see the manifestation of all the promises that you have made nor the fullness of the fruit of the seeds that we have sown. Yet, Merciful God, we wait with a blessed hope that you will send those who will build upon our dreams and deeds to the glory of your name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" #557

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:38-44

12:38 As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,

12:39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!

12:40 They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

12:41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

12:42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

12:43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

12:44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

SERMON The Cost of Discipleship – Rev. Frankie Revell

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER QUILTS

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

(Inspired by Mark 12:38ff)

Lord,

Sometimes we feel like we have nothing to give. Sometimes we feel like this world just takes. It drains us dry, Lord. We sometimes feel like we just don't have enough to go on. Not enough money, not enough energy, not enough hope.

But we know better. We might not have cars and fame and bling; we might not have titles and positions; we might not have a home to call our own; we might not have a lot of free time. But we have you, and you give.

Lord, you give us so much. You give us shelter and daily bread. You give us families and friends. You give us hope, love, and faith. You give us yourself. You meet us where we are. It might be in prison. It might be in the boardroom. It might be in the ditch. It might be in the courtroom. It might be in a judge's chamber. It might be on the streets. It might be in our homes. It might be in a homeless shelter. It might be in a cathedral. It might be a storefront. You meet us and you give.

So, what we have, we give to you. Like the widow who gave all she had, we know we can't beat your giving. We have enough, and we give to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Tony Peterson, *Africana Worship Book for Year B*, Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 183.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Take My Life and Let it Be" #399

***BENEDICTION**

A Sending for Mark 12:38-44

Remember that abundance in accounts does not equal spiritual prosperity. Remember those who experience poverty in their purses still can possess the power of generosity. We do not measure God's abundance by comparing our materials to those of our neighbors. While we are counting and comparing our change, God is found measuring our motives. God's goodness and generosity tip the scales of humanity—as you go from the place, may your actions do likewise. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

***DISMISSAL**