



The Stories Jesus Told

**Worship with Communion
July 5, 2020**

Liturgist: Ann Hooper

Series: Stories Jesus Told
(The Parables of Jesus in Matthew)

Music as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Jesus says, "Come to me, and I will give you rest.
**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
full of compassion, abounding in love.**
Jesus says, my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
**The Lord supports those who are weak,
and lifts up those who are falling.**
Let us worship God!

Opening hymn - *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,"* tune: HYMN TO JOY
Glory to God #611, verses 1 and 2

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Opening Prayer

Savior and Friend,
you call us to lay down our burdens
and find rest in a relationship with you.
We praise you and give humble thanks.
Help us to learn from you
how to be gentle and humble of heart,
that our burdens may be light. **Amen.**

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures - Zechariah 9:9-12

The reading from the Hebrew Scriptures is Zechariah 9:9-12.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said, "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, as Christians we believe that you love all peoples and nations without exception, so on this weekend when we celebrate July 4th, we pray for every nation - for health, safety, and peace. In this time we are more aware than ever that we are all connected.

We take a moment now to name the prayers of our hearts.

(a pause for people to name their prayers at home)

Lord, hear our prayers.

God of wisdom, discipleship is hard work, especially in a time like this. Left on our own, we miss important cues. Like the people in Jesus' parable, we don't know when to dance, when to mourn, when to repent, when to celebrate.

In times of weakness and blindness and in our hour of need,
yours is the strength by which we carry on,
the shoulder we rest our head upon.

When our load is heavy and too much to bear,
when our inclination is to give up on measures of diligent caring

and to let things happen as they will,
yours are the arms stretched out to help us stay the course,
yours is the grace that we depend on.
Hold us up in these days, Lord God.

In times of weakness and hour of need,
your voice is heard,
"Come, all of you, and find rest."

This is grace divine,
that you invite us to dance when we hear the music and to grieve when our
hearts are broken and through it all to know that a place of rest and peace and
hope is always ours to return to.

Keep calling us home, all of us, and inviting us to rest. We need you.
Amen.

Music "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
by Jim Wingate on the organ

Communion

Great Thanksgiving

We begin Communion with **The Great Thanksgiving**, a prayer in which we obey Jesus' commandment to remember the saving acts of our Triune God: creation, constant care, redemption through Christ, and sustenance through the Holy Spirit. And we anticipate together the banquet that is to come.

God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks to you, creating God,
breath of all being;
the earth is yours and all that is in it,
and all who dwell therein.
You planted seeds in fertile ground,
to rise and sing your praise.
You formed us from the earth
and planted goodness in our souls,
that we might love like you.
Yet, when our disordered cravings bowed down our spirit,
you did not leave us low,
but bent down to meet us and grow us up again.

We give you thanks, O God,
that you sowed your Word in Jesus,
to grow your kingdom here on earth
and draw us ever near.

Jesus planted mercy wherever he went,
to reap a greater righteousness.
He shared bread with outcasts and sinners
and healed the brokenhearted.
Remembering his dying and rising,
we offer you this bread and wine,
and ourselves in grateful service.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
and all your people here today.
Breathe your Spirit over all creation
that together we may cultivate peace
in every corner of the world.

Then bring us to that blessed mountain
where with the meek and pure in heart
we will live forever in blessedness
as we taste the fruits of heaven.

Through Christ,
by the inspiration of your Life-giving Spirit.

Now, together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Invitation

Sharing of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Closing Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"
Glory to God #321, verses 1 and 2

tune: AURELIA

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Benediction

Doxology (*recorded by Allison Kelly and Ellette Burke, with Jim Wingate*)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*