

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020  
**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF STEWARDSHIP**  
ST/JOHN'S



# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 15, 2020

9:30 am

## INTRODUCTION

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

## PRELUDE

+ **Gathering** +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GATHERING HYMN

Lord of Light, ELW 688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - dianc  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain  
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## + Word +

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from First Thessalonians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, siblings, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key signature of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes on both staves.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life that I May Be, ELW 685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.



## + Sending +

SENDING HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, ELW 678



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:  
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,  
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;  
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;  
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.  
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.  
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you!**

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

### SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching &amp; Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Music Director &amp; Organist:</i>	Dr. Robert McConnell
<i>Cantor:</i>	Hannah McConnell
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Max Beck
<i>Prayer of the People:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Craig Gonder, his girlfriend, Stephanie Gabloui, and her son, Malik, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † Beth Gonder, sister of Craig, and her boyfriend, Jake Peterson, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † James, friend and co-worker of Craig Gonder, in need of healing and recovery from COVID
- † Stanley Smith, brother-in-law of Margye Smith, and his family, experiencing several cases of COVID
- † The family and friends of Carolyn Rasmussen, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 10/9/20
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Tony & Alissandra Swanson, friends of the Abudayeh family, as they mourn the death of their 7-year-old son
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- † Frank Ziegler, in need of healing
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The families of Salwa Sous and Kevin Anderson, family members of Stephanie & Elias Abudayeh, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † Ken Kastman, healing from broken ribs after a fall
- † Janet Rassenfoss and Alan Swanson, on the birth of their first grandchild, Molly Francis Wilka, on 7/6/20
- † The family and friends of Bob Anderson who died 6/8/20
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Doris Regan and her family, for strength and support as she receives hospice care
- † Janet Witt, cancer diagnosis
- † Virginia Milnikel, broken arm
- † Lani Miller
- † Doug Peters, managing cancer and recovering from surgery
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, ongoing back pain
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland
- † Marty Anderson
- † Ellie Basnik, mother-in-law of Chad Johnson, cancer diagnosis
- † Gil Basnik, father-in-law of Chad Johnson, in need of healing
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † Fred Rudolfi, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † The family and friends of Helene Tadros, Olga Domchenko's sister, who died 4/6/20, and especially for William Sciarrino, Helene's caretaker
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Appeal Sunday**

Today is Stewardship Appeal Sunday! If you have not done so already, please visit [stjohnswilmette.org/give](http://stjohnswilmette.org/give) to submit your intent card online. You may also return your card by mail. Keep in mind our two challenge gifts made possible by a few anonymous donors this year:

- A \$3,000 bonus gift if we reach our goal of submitting 55 intent cards
- A dollar-for-dollar match on the increase of any household currently giving \$50 per week or less

Please help us reach our goals of increasing giving by \$700 per week next year. Let's invest in our future together!

### **Celebration Sunday Drive-Through Communion & Advent Box Pick-Up**

Next Sunday, November 22, we will celebrate the culmination of our Stewardship Season with drive-through Holy Communion. You are invited to stop by the church parking lot any time between 11 am and 1 pm to receive the sacrament from Pastor Allison. Those who attend will also receive an Advent Box, filled with special items for use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Those who are not able to attend will receive their Advent box by personal delivery or mail.

### **Intimate Dialog on Race Preceded by Prayer**

Van Gilmer, music director at the Baha'i Temple, is leading a conversation about race on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Van is an African American resident of Wilmette who joined us for our recent Adult Forum discussion on reparations. You may watch his video invitation to the Wednesday session [here](#), and you may register for the event on Zoom [here](#). We are so happy to be invited to participate in these important conversations about race.

### **Coming to Terms with Race: A Primer on America's Original Sin**

This past Thursday concluded this four-part Zoom class led by The Rev. Andrew Packman and hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette. This wonderful primer on race in American life and how we as Christians can reflect theologically on this challenging issue can be watched or re-watched on [First Presbyterian's YouTube channel](#).

### **Holy Family Christmas Giving Tree**

This year, due to extreme COVID safety measures in place for the children of Holy Family, they will be using gift cards to purchase gifts for the kids. Although not as much fun as picking out a gift for one of our wonderful and hard-working HFM students, this is the safest way to still say we love you to the children in their care. Our goal this year is 40 donations at \$25 each. Deadline for the collection is **November 30<sup>th</sup>**. The Holy Family *Christmas Giving Tree* program has been a part of St. John's for many years, and we don't want to miss blessing the children of Holy Family at this joyous holiday season. This may be the only gift they receive this year. Thank you so much. Please make your checks payable to Cindi Rachowicz and mail them to her home at 2757 Bernard Place, Evanston IL 60201.

### **Virtual Holy Family "Family" Reunion**

You are invited to Holy Family Ministries' annual Fall Benefit. Since we cannot gather together in person this year, we decided to bring the party to you! Join our "Family" online from the comfort of your own home and share with us in a very special evening Saturday, November 21, 2020. "Virtual" Doors open at 6:45 pm, program is 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. [Register here](#) and receive a link for access to all pre-event info and the Family Reunion event. No cost for registration so don't wait! Each year, Holy Family Ministries raises funds to enable west side children to attend our programs through our Fall Event. Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel

academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Schmidt, Director of Outreach, at [cschmidt@hfm.org](mailto:cschmidt@hfm.org).

### **A Message from Mindy**

I have to launch another GoFundMe as numerous job prospects in Aug/Sep did not pan out and my financial outlook is grim at this time, and I have multiple payments due for less usual expenses. Thanks to your generosity, the June GFM was very successful, so your prayers, positive energy, and support (funny notes, emails, calls) obviously worked. I and my cats Oona and Mimi are very blessed. The cats are especially happy with all the cat toy donations from Susan Crist. Just in mice alone, they now enjoy a huge surplus supply that will last them for years, as I have a 3-mouse maximum in active rotation at any one time in my home! Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers; I just received notice of new job prospects and have responded. I am praying for you and yours as well, especially during this crazy, stressful time of pandemic. My Go Fund Me page can be found [here](#).

### **Children's Bulletins**

Children's bulletins for each Sunday are now available on our website under Worship Bulletins and at the bottom of the eNewsletter each week. Check it out!

### **Church Office Open by Appointment Only**

Jan is beginning to work from the church office more regularly, which means that she is available to let people into the building if needed. During this time of COVID, we ask that people do not visit the building unannounced. If you need to stop by the office, please call first to make sure Jan is available and can be ready with her mask to meet you. If you have a key to the building, please do not use it without calling Jan first. Thanks for keeping all of us safe!

### **Amazon Smile**

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit founded by Amazon that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) rather than [amazon.com](https://amazon.com) to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally

## UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY		Stewardship Appeal Sunday
9:30 AM		Online Worship with Children's Message
WEDNESDAY		
11:00 AM-12:00 PM		Bible Study Online
7:00 PM		Intimate Dialog on Race Preceded by Prayer Online
THURSDAY		
12:00-1:00 PM		Men's Group Online
7:00-8:30 PM		Rooted in Relationships Team Online
SATURDAY		
5:00 PM		Contemplative Service Online
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22		
9:30 AM		Online Worship with Children's Message and Baptism of Leelavathy Louise Chittajallu
11:00 AM-1:00 PM		Drive-Through Communion and Advent Box Pick-Up

# ST/JOHN'S

1235 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (847) 251-1730  
stjohnswilmette.com • Facebook: St. John's Wilmette