

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

People: For the Lord is our God, and we are the Lord's people.

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our ears,

People: That we might hear and heed the word of the Lord.

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our eyes,

People: That we might both see and perceive the will of the Lord.

Leader: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our hearts.

People: That we might understand with our hearts and turn to the Lord for healing.

The Story of the Hymn

Opening Hymn: Thy Word is a Lamp 601

Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path

1

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still you're right there beside me,
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

2

Now I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide

And hold me to your side,
And I will love you to the end

Refrain

Announcements (announcements and prayer requests can be called in to the church office and they will be shared from the pulpit—during the service you may text Pastor Casey at 315-858-8864 or email him at caseybradley@gmail.com)

Children's Message

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we are far from our sense of normal. We have been isolated. We have covered our faces. We have kept our distance. We know the very real human tendency to isolate ourselves from our Creator. To hide from our God. To live in the distance between where we are and where you call us to be. Lord, even as our lives have been through the maelstrom, give us the peace that we find when we come back to you. Even as we have lived through the trials and temptations, give us the courage to turn our lives around and seek you first. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

First Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

Gospel Lesson:

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention.

"Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a

yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

Sermon: The Reckless Farmer

Affirmation of Faith

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

Community Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Story of the Hymn

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See 454

Benediction

Church Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the back of the Sanctuary as you exit. You can also mail offerings to Church of Christ Uniting or use our online giving platform at <https://rschurchofchristuniting.com/>

Words and Music by Clara H. Scott, Score provided through hymnary.org

Open My Eyes, That I May See



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voi - ces of truth thou
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth



hast for me; place in my hands the won-der-ful key
send - est clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare



that shall un - clasp and set me free.
ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I
love with thy chil-dren thus to share.



wait for thee, re - ady, my God, thy will to see.



O - pen my eyes,
O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spi - rit di - vine!
O - pen my heart,