SCRIPTURE Matthew 32:22-31

SERMON Who Are You Wrestling With?

PRAYER of RESPONSE

 **Gracious God: may the words of scripture burn deeply in our hearts**

**so that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

FLOWER COMMUNION (see insert)

HYMN (verses 3 & 4) *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”* HYMN TO JOY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Variation on *Peace I Leave with You, My Friends* Repp

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***THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!***

***REMINDERS…***

**Church Bookkeeper/Data Entry Volunteer Needed:** For more information, see Pat Stienstra or Hal Hoffman.

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From http://www.ratnermuseum.org/?page=genesis

**Sunday, August 2, 2020**

**“Who Are You Wrestling With”**

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

741 Taborton Road

Sand Lake, New York 12153

518-674-1039 (office)

518-712-5008 (parsonage)

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Ms. MaryPat Stienstra, Board Moderator

Ms. Kate O’Neill, Musician

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PRELUDE Variation on *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* Manley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP

 L: Adults and children —

**P: come and worship!**

L: Even if you’re tired and worn out —

**P: come and worship!**

L: Lay down the heavy things you are carrying —

**P: come and worship!**

L: Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you —

**P: come and worship!**

L: See if you can discover how Jesus wants to use you —

**P: come and worship!**

**ALL: For Jesus is humble and gentle,**

**and he will give us everything we need to follow him**.

~ by Christine Longhurst

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN (verses 1 & 2) “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”* HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO & PRAYER of CONFESSION

 L: God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way.

God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all.

Therefore, I invite us to confess and turn away from all that separates us from God and one another. Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire

or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

**P: Lord, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

L: God, when we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice,

or failed to extend the invitation to others,

**P: Christ, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

L: When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy,

or failed to be gentle with ourselves and others, knowing you are near,

**P: Lord, have mercy.**

*Time for personal reflection and confession.*

~ by Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

***Words of Assurance (*minister*)***

 ***Gloria Patri* (spoken)**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;

 World without end. Amen. Amen.

***Offering Signs of Peace***

INVITATION to STEWARDSHIP

***Doxology (*spoken)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

 Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise Godabove, ye heavenly host.

 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication***

We have the means to give, a reason to give, and those waiting to receive our offerings. God of grace: help us live and give in your kindom of love realizing that there should not be enemies, but a world where all are recognized and cherished as your people. Amen.

**2**

***Today’s Scripture…***

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible*. Sheed & Ward.

﻿ ﻿ 22 In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yabbok River. 23 After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, 24 and he was completely alone. And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. 25 Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled. 26 Then Jacob’s contender said, “Let me go, for day is breaking.” Jacob answered, “I will not let you go until you bless me.” 27 “What is your name?” the other asked. “Jacob,” he answered. 28 The other said, “Your name will no longer be called ‘Jacob,’ or ‘Heel-Grabber,’ but ‘Israel, ‘Overcomer of God’ - because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked “Now tell me your name, I beg you.” The other said, “Why do you ask me my name?” - and blessed Jacob there. 30 Jacob named the place Peniel - “Face of God” - “because I have seen God face to face, yet my life was spared.” 31 At sunrise, Jacob left Peniel, limping along from the injured hip.

***The word of the Lord!***

***Thanks be to God!***

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**4**

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**HYMN**

**for the**

**LORD’S DAY**

**“JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU”**

HYMN TUNE: HYMN TO JOY

LYRICS: Psalm45:10; Isaiah 49:13

1. Joyful, joyful we adore you

God of glory, God of love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before you,

Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

Drive the storms of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day.

1. All your works with joy surround you,

Earth and heaven reflect your rays;

Stars and angels sing around you,

Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flowery meadow, flashing sea;

Chanting bird and flowering fountain,

Teach us what our praise should be.

**5**

1. You are giving and forgiving,

Ever-blessing, ever-blessed,

Well-spring of the joy of living,

Ocean depth of happy rest!

Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,

All who love belong to you;

Teach us how to love each other,

By that love our joy renew.

1. Mortals join the mighty chorus

When the morning stars began;

Boundless love is reigning o’er us,

Reconciling race and clan.

Ever-singing, move we forward,

Faithful in the midst of strife;

Joyful music leads us onward,

In the triumph song of life.

**6**

**FLOWER COMMUNION**

**&**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

**LITURGY**

L: Let us give thanks for all those things which unite us with God and with each other; for those bonds of loyalty and affection which make life sweet and joyful.

**P**: **For the love and support which we have from those nearest and dearest to us, we lift up our hearts in thanks, O God.**

L: For the fellowship which comes from our shared faith and ideals;

**P: For the togetherness we share in this congregation, we give thanks.**

L: For the Christian community which transcends all boundaries of time, space, race, age, gender, and gender expression; for the Gospel message that sets us free to be transformed by God’s grace and sent into the world as ambassadors of God’s Kindom.

**P**: **For the community we share with all humanity, we give thanks, and pray that we may always live with the ever-deepening conviction that we are all reflections of God.**

L: For the elemental forces which move through all the world of nature and through us; for the earth and the air, the sea and the stars which nourish and guide us.

**P**: **For these and for everything in which our spirits find strength, we lift our hearts in praise and deep thanksgiving.**

L: These flowers which we offer represent the treasury of our united devotion to God and to each other, gathered from the soil in which we are rooted. Together they are a token of that beauty we find in Jesus the Christ which can redeem and transform our lives, and the lives of all people.

**P**: **May these flowers be to us a symbol of all things which bind us to each other and to God…**

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Silent Prayer***

**Concluding words & The Lord’s Prayer**

Gracious God: May we find the world that you caused to be created utterly beautiful and commanding of our deepest care. May we find the life you have given us so rich and full of meaning that we will be true gifts to those whose paths we cross. And help us always to pray the prayer your Son taught us saying: Our Father...

Adapted from: https://www.unitarian.org.uk/sites/default/files/2008\_Flowers\_WorshipPack.pdf

