



Nantucket
United Methodist Church
Sunday September 12, 2021
10:00am
Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Richard
Pastor
NantucketUMC.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost
September 12, 2021

Prelude **Anuraag Pendyal**

Welcome & Announcements **Elizabeth Eldridge**

***Call to Worship – please stand**

L: As we awaken each morning, may the eyes of God be

C: As we begin this day, may God strengthen us

L: As we wait upon the Spirit, may God's heart sustain us

C: As we listen, may we be guided by God's voice

L: As we go about this day, may God's hand be our de-
fense

C: As we rest this day, may God's breath be our peace

***Opening Hymn – please stand**

For The Beauty of the Earth No. 92

Invocation (in unison) - please be seated

We come to this hour, anxious to fulfill our purpose in life; to be in but not of this world; to be part of a world of your creation, where justice is more than a word, but a lifestyle; where love is more than an emotion, but an intent; where goodness is possible, only if your Spirit is our guide. We come to be changed, changed enough to leave here believing and living as if Your grace is our power. In Christ, Amen.

The Morning Scriptures

A Reading from the book of James 3:1-12 – please be seated

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the

whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water

***We are reading from Mark 8: 27-38 – please stand**

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for

the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God

***A Hymn – please stand**

Breathe On Me Breath of God No. 420

The Sermon – please be seated

"Why Is It So Hard?"

Dr. Richard

The Morning Prayer – please be seated

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Call To Offering

***Doxology and Prayer of Thanks – please stand**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow

Praise him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

***Closing Hymn – please stand**

A Charge To Keep I Have No. 413

***The Blessing – please stand Elizabeth Eldridge**

***Choral Benediction (In unison) – please stand**

God be with you til we meet again

By his counsels guide uphold you

With his sheep securely fold you

God be with you til we meet again.

Leader: And the people all said

Congregation: Amen

Welcome

This is a place of prayer and reflection. We are delighted that you have joined us for this hour and pray that it is a source of strength and hope for you.

Our Reader

Elizabeth is an active member of NUMC. She works at Holdgate's laundry, and expects to complete her Master's Degree within this next year.

Are You A Visitor?

Please make yourself known to us. There are yellow visitor information cards in your pew. Feel free to fill it in and drop it in the offering plate.

For Your Safety...

Everyone regardless of vaccination status must wear a mask at all times when inside the church building. We are using our hymnals. We have hand sanitizer available, if you wish to use it.

This Wednesday 7-8 pm

During the next couple weeks we will continue to discuss the current news in light of the Gospel, on zoom. The connecting instructions are on the back of your worship bulletin.

Prayer Requests

Each week we include in your bulletin a slip upon which you may request prayers. Simply fill it out and place it on the pulpit, and it will be included in the morning prayers.

Did You Know?

Our COC (Community Outreach Committee) wants you to know that the mission of the United Methodist Church is **to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**. The further mission of First United Methodist Church is to create and build inclusive Christian community through INVITING, FORMING and SENDING faithful, active disciples of Jesus Christ.

What Does My Financial Contribution to NUMC Do?

It honors those who built this house, by keeping it in good repair for all who come to its doors to find peace, comfort and inspiration. Our contributions serve a world of needs, through the United Methodist Church world wide....and so much more. Our Recommended Option is to contribute online by going to the web site [Tithe.Ly](https://www.tithe.ly) or by using the [Tythe.Ly APP](https://www.tithe.ly) on your smart phone. You can also contribute during the weekly collection or by using the envelope and offering plate as you leave. You may also mail a check to NUMC Box 264 02554. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

Flowers From Your Garden

Do you want to honor or remember someone? Providing flowers for a worship service is a wonderful way to do so. Speak to Kathie Batchelder or call the church office and let us help you find a date.

From My Heart To Yours...

Dear Friends,

Some months ago I hung a quote in the lobby of Wesley Hall, by G.K. Chesterton which reads "*The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried.*"

The Gospels affirms this...disciples and crowds coming to terms with exactly what Jesus was saying and what he meant, there are some who turned away. Too much. Too costly.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a theologian and part of the resistance movement to Nazi Germany wrote a book entitled, "The Cost of Discipleship." If anyone knew the difficulty of following Christ, he would be a great example. He was put to death for his faithful ethics.

For people for whom religion does not mean much, it costs little or nothing. But for those who practice it as a way of life, it is not easy. We read in Paul's letters about the by-products of belief, but clearly underlying the kindness, honesty, love, patience, goodness and joy is when things get tough in this world, the cause of Christianity is tested.

I'm saddened by the dishonesty, disinformation, lack of conviction, rampant injustice, and cursory understanding of basic ethics that is exhibited in public discourse these days. I'm not surprised, but saddened. We Christians have some difficult days ahead.

There's no turning back, unless we have chosen to give up on the Christ in Christian ethics.

Tom

Directory

Accompanist Anuraag Penyal

Lay Leader Sylvester Baptiste

Chair, Admin. Board Zona Butler

Chair, Altar Guild and Emeritus Chair, Trustees, Nelson El-dridge

Chair, Trustees Toby Brown

Chair, Mission and Outreach Kathryn Batchelder

Chair, Staff Parish Relations Zannie Johnson

Chair, Stewardship and Finance Marianne Stanton

Chair, Communication Ray Brusca

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NUMC Zoom Information—Used For All NUMC Zoom Events

Option 1 – From your computer, tablet or smart phone, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82150456279>

Option 2 –Join Zoom for audio only by dialing an access number listed below and then entering the Meeting ID which is [821 5045 6279](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82150456279):

Telephone Access Numbers: [646-558-8656](tel:646-558-8656), [301-715-8592](tel:301-715-8592), [312-262-6799](tel:312-262-6799), [669-900-9128](tel:669-900-9128), [253-215-8782](tel:253-215-8782)