

Grace Devotion

Week of May 12, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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*We cannot all be one, we cannot realize the prayer of Jesus unless we believe that **all** people matter equally to God. To do so requires us to shift our motivation from determining what is good for a narrowly defined “us” toward considering **all** people as part of the “One.” What if we looked at one another and saw all people as valuable, as part of the oneness Jesus desired for the people around him?*

Rev. Martha Spong

Pastor Martha Spong asks us to consider how life would be different if we noticed and embraced each other. Inclusiveness is much easier to talk about than put into action, but being followers of Christ is not supposed to be easy. We are called to be open to the indwelling and transformative presence of Christ. We are tasked to awaken our God-given talents to become a sign of what it means to be a disciple, part of the living church. Grace is rooted in and through Jesus Christ, and we are also a community of believers bound together, ‘United’ by covenant: a bond that has been challenged in this past year of uncertainty, illness, and isolation.

Our faith stretches back over 2000 years, yet we are a church who truly believes, God is Still Speaking! That is why we are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew in our lives and in the world today. It’s why we strive to remain attentive to God’s creative movement around us. We believe worship should feed us as we celebrate, nourishing both head and heart. Christ’s prayer for us, “*That They May Be One*” is more than just a catchy tag line for our church; it should be the focus of our movement, ministry, mission, and hospitality. In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes God known; revealing the divine to humanity so that people might recognize

God and be transformed. I recently acquired a book of quotes from Mr. Rodgers and found this one to be work well with John's Gospel:

*"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like "struggle."
To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly.
the way they are, right here and now."*

Our friendly neighbor reminds us of the constant work of Christianity, how we strive and struggle to follow the path of Jesus. How is your acceptance?

PRAYER

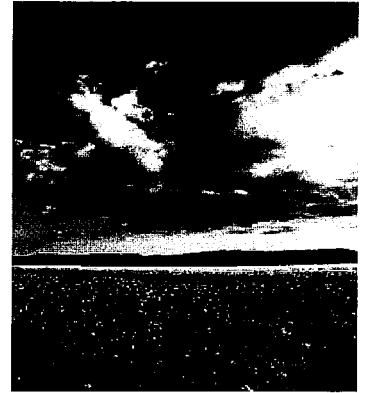
Dear God, you love us unconditionally, provide us with the compassion needed to love and accept our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

Blessings!

Pastor Fred

Can anyone be a good leader?

But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled." Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say."— Exodus 4:10-12



A rich businessman once held a dinner party to which Calvin Coolidge had been invited. After Coolidge left, the man remarked that he thought Coolidge would one day make a good president of the United States. Some disagreed, feeling Coolidge lacked the personality and charisma needed to hold such a high office.

The man's six-year-old daughter spoke up. "I like him," she said, holding up her pointer finger with a bandage around it. "He was the only one at the party who asked me about my hurt finger."

"And that's exactly why he would be a great president," added her father.

People very often value charm or charisma in their leaders over and above things like character and compassion. But the truth is, attractive personalities in leaders are often nothing more than a façade to mask their shortcomings.

Things like charisma and an attractive personality aren't necessarily bad. But a good leader must have much more.

So instead of counting yourself out as a leader simply because you think you don't have the right personality, look inside to the gifts God has given you, like compassion, wisdom, and character. When you do, you'll find you do have what it takes to be a spiritual leader to others.

Prayer Challenge

Ask God to open your eyes to the gifts He's given you that you can use to lead others.

Questions for thought

When you think of a great leader, what leadership characteristics come to mind?

What might be the advantages of having a leader who focuses less on personality and more on things like compassion and wisdom?

May 12, 2024--10AM Worship
7th Sunday of Easter

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
WESTMINISTER CHIMES and PRELUDE

** SONG: "This is Amazing Grace" ~Phil Wickham

**CALL TO WORSHIP

**PRAYER

In the wake of the Rising of the One we call Christ, we gather as a people of sanctuary, as a people of Sabbath, ever seeking God's presence, ever in awe of the new life around us. Accept our music as gift, our words as offering, our dance as service, our breath as worship. Amen.

**HYMN: O For a Thousand Tongues

#76

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have been called together into the church to live the resurrection faith, to embody Easter and touch lives as Jesus did. We have not done this well. Our vision has been narrow and limited. Our testimony has been timid and self-protective. We listen to the wrong advisors and complain when things do not go our way. Help us rediscover the delight and joy of full commitment. Amen.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

TIME FOR THE YOUNG A HEART

SCRIPTURES
Psalms 103:1-4
John 17:6-19

SERMON "All for Us!"

**HYMN: Crown Him with Many Crowns

#234

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
A New Creed

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**DOXOLOGY

#625

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, bless these gifts that they may be shared in the spirit of an Easter People, ever seeking ways to live out faith in acts of service. Amen.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**SONG: "All the People Said Amen" ~Matt Maher

**FINAL BLESSING

** A CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resource:

Led By Love Worship Resources for Year B. Lavon Bayler. United Church Press. Cleveland. 1996.

Press. Cleveland. 1996.

Before The Amen. Maren and Maria Tirabassi. The Pilgrim Press.

Cleveland. 2007.

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April One Great Hour of Sharing Total Offering:
\$735!


Upcoming Events

- MAY: Koins for Kinny (collection during the entire month of May)
- P-A-L May 18th
- Bible Study May 15th
- Bible Study Movie @1pm: Wednesday, May 22nd
- Town Hall Meeting: June 23rd during worship
- Potluck and Crooners: June 23rd immediately following worship

Volunteer Opportunities—
Sign-ups in Gathering Place

- Volunteer counters after church
- Lectors
- Snack providers

Happy Mother's Day to all the incredible women who nurture, support, and inspire us each day, whether as mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, or friends. Your love and strength shape the world with boundless care and compassion. Today, we honor you all!



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Grace United Church of Christ

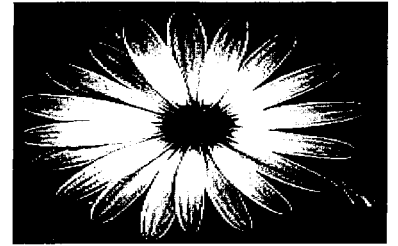
100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

In case of inclement weather, please check Facebook or call the Prayer Line 717-634-8865

Psalm 1



W S X L T P O E P S I N N E R S C R L T
C E H D P P Y L L G U P U S G Z Z D N U
Q S Z F D S Z I G A J Y E Y G G A X W U
R J O B L E S S E D G J I H S E A T W T
P U S K N B U M X E N Z G D B T P O M J
D X Q H G Y D Z U Z B A H F W S T O W N
X H R K M M A N S X M B S L T C K N L L
X F I S E O R G Q E G J O M Z O Y J S N
A G L Z U U K B Y T F M G D J F T O H J
L F O E S L O S L A W G L K L F U H O Q
O Y Z S F Y P G I Q H N I N R E I Y C A
W E D W T P L T E D F C I Y Z R L M I A
A E R Q K A P U Q C M O Y E O S O X P O
H P N B H X N E L D G U V H J I R Y T J
G Z C H T D W D W R L N D B A S D H P M
N D D M E P N A S B O S F Q T N G Y W M
T R M K I V S O L O N E L J P I Q R D M
A N C Z S N C K Y K W L K Q L N N C A C
F I G X N J H L Z D S F K E T Z U P Z E
W S S Z H C I O J W G W D E F L A G K P

Blessed

Man

Walks

Counsel

Wicked

Stands

Sinners

Seat

Scoffers

Delight

Law

Lord

John 17:6-19

K M N P O H N H D C T X U Z Q D V T U S
 H L P W O B S G U A R D E D R L O F C Y
 Z H Y S J E C V F N W H Y D L R O W L F
 A W S R I L N U B A I P E G U O G O C I
 T I F E U I G R H A R I H D P W H E G F
 I R L Q J E I B M A F L I T Z D V T M A
 I Q I X Z V V I Y I O D O N Y E W R Y T
 W Z X S U E E I R Q D M O L R T N R P H
 R Q D F X D N O L X X K U Y Q S A I V E
 L M B M P G L M F N E F T G H E U B H R
 L R M C U G F V A S Q H E B U F N K O T
 S J V N F G I S V Z I B M E K I R F H O
 D F G H E F X Y C N P M A I D N S I Q T
 J U P X G K W O G O L U N P T A J R C Z
 X F Z H M G W V L S P P W C Z M L P R P
 P O J F D X D L K H C V J A R Q V J C L
 X D E S J L M K C G K D Y O U M R U F P
 K P G U P I Z I P Y X U Y H P V M A A Z
 A K W S R I I W N M E R E L E S Y D F M
 B X J D E V I E C E R K G C H D B I Q F

BELIEVED
 EVERYTHING
 FATHER
 GIVEN
 GLORIFIED
 GUARDED
 HOLY
 MANIFESTED
 MINE
 NAME
 PRAYING
 RECEIVED
 THINE
 WORLD
 WORLD

