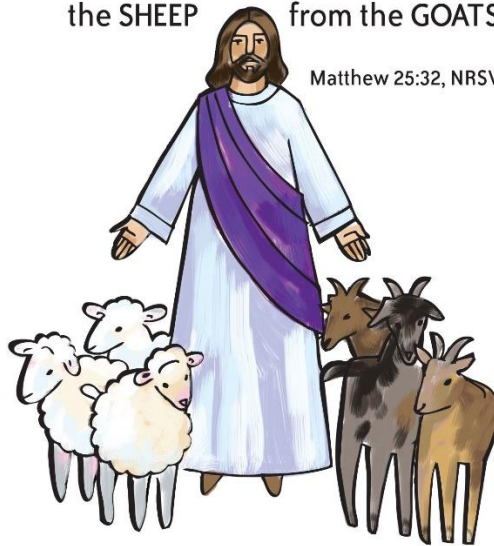


“He will separate  
people one  
from another as  
a shepherd  
separates  
the SHEEP from the GOATS.”

Matthew 25:32, NRSV



## Johnsville United Methodist Church

Union Bridge, MD

Our mission is to nurture the members of the congregation in developing a personal relationship with God and to share His word and His love with the larger community.

PRAISE, WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

November 22, 2020

PRELUDE

“Jesus Shall Reign” (Watts/Hatton)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

UMH 61

1. Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing,  
help us to praise!  
Father all glorious,  
o’er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days!

2. Come thou incarnate Word,  
gird on thy mighty sword,  
Our prayer attend!  
Come, and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend!

3. Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour.  
Thou who almighty art,  
now rule in every heart,  
and ne’er from us depart,  
Spirit of power!

4. To thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be,  
hence, evermore.  
Thy sovereign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
Love and adore!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Matthew 25)

**Leader:** Sheep and goats are welcome here. Saints and sinners are part of God's world.

**People: Come; rejoice in Christ Jesus, who welcomes us all!**

Leader: Come; share in his grace, that we all might become sheep- who feed one another, who show compassion and love, who offer comfort and mercy, who give as we have received.

**People: Come; rejoice in Christ Jesus, who welcomes us all!**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Matthew 25)

**Glorious God, shine upon us with your spirit of wisdom and truth. Enlighten our hearts. Help us know the hope to which we are called. Reveal your ways, that we might share hope and joy in all that we do and all that we say. In the light of Christ's love, we pray. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O God, You Are My God" (Ortega)

Linda Wood, soloist

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God of Glory, we do not always see your glory in the world around us. When we see a person in need, it is not easy to look at him in the eye. When we hear a cry for help, it is not easy to offer her quick assistance. When we know of a lonely prisoner, it is not easy to make that visit. Forgive us when we fail to see you in our everyday lives. Forgive us when we are afraid to act, afraid to care. Encourage us God of Glory. Help us see others with the eyes of compassion, that we might be your loving presence in the world.

We pray all these things in Jesus name who taught his disciples to pray by saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

"Take Time to Be Holy"

UMH 395

1. Take time to be holy,  
speak oft with thy Lord;  
abide in him always,  
and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children,  
help those who are weak,  
forgetting in nothing  
his blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy,  
the world rushes on;  
spend much time in secret  
With Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus,  
like him thou shalt be;  
thy friends in thy conduct  
His likeness shall see.
3. Take time to be holy,  
let him be thy guide,  
and run not before him,  
whatever betide.
4. Take time to be holy,  
be calm in thy soul  
each thought and each motive  
beneath his control.

In joy or in sorrow,  
still follow the Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus,  
still trust in his word.

Thus led by his spirit  
to fountains of love,  
thou soon shall be fitted  
for service above.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>1</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>2</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>3</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>4</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>5</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>6</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>7</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>8</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>9</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>10</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ <sup>11</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>12</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>13</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>14</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>15</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>16</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Sermon

“Naaaah! I’m Not One of Those”

Pastor Shari McCourt

Today is Reign of Christ Sunday or Christ the King Sunday! This day marks the end of our church calendar year. Next Sunday is Happy New Year! This year ends with a depiction of God

through Christ as a Messiah, King, son of David, Messianic Shepherd. We experience a scene of last judgment that may be different, than what we would expect.

The texts that have preceded this one have all been end times texts, that have taught us to be servants both individually and as a community. They have shared insight on God's unfailing grace, forgiveness of sins and mercy. This text does not mention any of those things. In the final judgment, the bottom line is whether or not we have acted with loving care of those in need.

As the Son of Man separates the sheep from the goats there are consequences. Sheep within the community when Jesus spoke in today's text, were valued because as a high tag item that brought in the most money. Sheep were the stabilizing unit for the economy they used every part of a lambs body.

Horns were used for containers to keep oil or musical instruments. Their skins were made into clothing, and the inner covering of the tabernacle, where they worshiped, which was dyed red. Sheep could withstand the more harsh terrain and liked it.

Goats which are related to sheep, only liked the easy life. Goats prefer flatter greener land, so that they don't have to work so hard. Goats don't like sacrifice, but sheep don't mind it, and thrive on challenge. Sheep work together as a group, or heard, but goats are stubborn, and go where ever they wish.

When we look at the separation between sheep and goats, we see the Messianic Shepherd, choosing between those who are willing to choose self-sacrifice, self-giving, caring for others, and working together as a group for the betterment of all. Goats don't care. So we look to the left, point our fingers and say, "Naaah, I am not one of those!" We need to be honest with ourselves. Are we really doing all of the good we can for all of the people we can as often as we can do it?

Acts of kindness are not extra credit or brownie points, they are the decisive criteria of judgment by God through Christ for one and all. Jesus taught that self-giving, and care for others is the heart of the revealed God in the Torah. We are to live out the fulfillment of scripture by serving others as Jesus did, and does through us as the Body of Christ.

The Messianic King lived out his teachings with the purpose of teaching his Kingdom is actions, that their tasks consist of service to others in Christ's name, and for God's glory alone. In the Hebrew scripture lessons, ministers were considered priests and Levites. In the New Testament the literal translation of diakoia is "minister." The term "minister" refers to everyone in the Christian community. I am called to serve as the pastor, and we are all called to be "ministers" in order to "minister" to one another and to those Christ calls us to minister to in the world.

All of humankind is our business. When we see someone treated in an unjust way, or with prejudice of any kind, we are called to stand up for them to advocate for them. We are to work for justice for those who are poor and impoverished. We are all called to be ministers in Christ's ministry. Now is the time to prepare for Christ's second coming. Don't be caught with your inner goat saying, "Naaah, I am not one of those."

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Many thanks for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of the church.

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As an act of worship, please consider keeping current in your tithes and offerings. Even though the church building is closed, we still have financial obligations we need to meet. The mailbox will be checked daily. The address is: **Johnsville United Methodist Church, 11106 Green Valley Road, Union Bridge, MD 2171**

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\* DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

**Offering Prayer (Matthew 25)**

**We offer these gifts to you: as food and drink for a hungry world, as clothing and shelter for those who are naked and homeless, as kindness and compassion for those who are most in need of mercy. Transform these gifts, that they might be your hands and feet in the world. Send us forth as your people, that all that we do, and all that we say, may be a glorious representation of your presence in the world. With gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

\* Closing Hymn

“Rescue the Perishing”

UMH 591

1. Rescue the perishing,  
care for the dying,  
snatch them in pity,  
from sin and the grave;  
weep o’er the erring one,  
lift up the fallen,  
tell them of Jesus,  
the mighty to save.

**Refrain**

Rescue the perishing,  
care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful,  
Jesus will save.

2. Though they are slighting him,  
still he is waiting,  
waiting the penitent  
child to receive;  
plead with them earnestly,  
plead with them gently;  
he will forgive  
if they only believe.

**Refrain**

3. Down in the human heart,  
crushed by the tempter,  
feelings lie buried  
that grace can restore;  
touched by a loving heart,  
wakened by kindness,  
chords that were broken  
Will vibrate once more.

**Refrain**

4. Rescue the perishing,  
duty demands it;  
strength for thy labor  
the Lord will provide;  
back to the narrow way  
patiently win them;  
tell the poor wanderer  
a Savior has died.

***Refrain***

\* BENEDICTION

Let us live as if the Lord is coming at any moment. Let us be about His work. Let us go in the peace of Christ in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

\* POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” (Darwell)

\*GOING FORTH AS NEIGHBORHOOD MISSIONARIES