



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

October 4, 2020

WELCOME

“Something Beautiful” (Gaither)

PRELUDE

*Opening Hymn:

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

UMH 404

Refrain

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
out his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me looks so shine,
ask my Lord of all was mine.

Refrain

2. Jordan river runs right cold,
chills the body, not the soul.
Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back.

Refrain

*Call to Worship: “Litany for Christian Unity”

UMH 556

Leader: Let us ask the Lord to strengthen in all Christians' faith in Christ, the Savior of the world.

People: Listen to us, O Lord.

Leader: Let us ask the Lord to sustain and guide Christians with his gifts along the way to full unity.

People: Listen to us, O Lord.

Leader: Let us ask the Lord for the gift of unity and peace for the world.

People: Listen to us, O Lord.

Leader: Let us pray. We ask you, O Lord, for the gifts of Your Spirit. Enable us to penetrate the depth of the whole truth, and grant that we may share with others the goods you have put at our disposal. Teach us to overcome divisions. Send us your Spirit to lead to full unity your sons and daughters in full charity, in obedience to your will; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Opening Prayer

BOW 492

God of all nations, we praise you that in Christ the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down. Yet we confess our slowness to open our hearts and minds to those of other lands, tongues, and races. Deliver us from the sins of fear and prejudice that we may move toward the day when all are truly one in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Special Music

“Love Never Fails” (Jesus Culture)

Wayne Trout, soloist

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

BOW505

O God, Giver of life, we pray for the Church throughout the world. Sanctify its life, renew its worship, empower its witness, restore its unity. Remove from your people all pride and every prejudice that dulls their will for unity. Strengthen the work of all those who strive to seek that common obedience that will bind us together. Heal the divisions which separate your children from one another, that they may keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

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

“Bread of the World”

UMH 624

1. Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:

2. Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house;

you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"The Big Ten Plus One"

Pastor Shari McCourt

This morning we are picking up the story of Moses struggling with the Israelites.

They have been traveling around in the desert through the wilderness following Moses who was called to lead them to the Promised Land. They are now at the base of Mount Sinai. This is a very dramatic scene. Moses had instructed the Israelites to clean themselves so that they might be consecrated to see God. The cleansing is due to the separation of God from the people. God is supreme Holiness and the creator of all creation, which is separate from creation its self. Second is that humans sin, and God is without sin. So the people were instructed to go through ritual cleaning of body, mind and soul. One word with contact with God was believed to result in death.

During those ancient times, God appeared to people in very dramatic ways such as suggested in today's text from Exodus. God appeared to the Israelites in a dense cloud and spoke to Moses through thunder. The scene we have is Moses up on a very holy mountain with the people down below, watching the dark cloud with thunder, and Moses their faithful leader, upon the top speaking as they watch down below. The people are somewhat afraid.

Then God spoke all these words, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name." In this first part of the Ten Commandments, God is spelling out clearly who is in charge, and who is not in charge.

Moses heard from God, that it is God, who is in charge. It is God who has freed the Israelites from slavery, and we as Christians understand from this passage that it is God, through Christ who has freed us from slavery and sin and death. It is God who has all of the power and all humans are powerless without God. God's pronouncement that humans are NOT to make idols for ourselves is in line with God letting the people know, that "it is I the Lord your God that has saved you and loved you even when you are not lovable!"

The commandment that I often find interesting is the one that we remember as kids, "Thou shall not take the Lord's name in vain." This refers to using the Lord's name in ways that do not

demonstrate total respect. It does not matter how loose we are and quick to defend ourselves that, “we didn’t mean it in that way.” We said it! When we say it we are not respecting the name of the Lord. There was a time when people were afraid to say the name of the Lord. The Lord was referred to by only the initials “YHWH” which we say, “Yahweh”, translated in the English speaking world as “Jehovah”. People believed that speaking God’s name could result in being struck dead.

The way in which we use God’s name, refers to the way in which we interpret God’s will, such as the moments when we judge others claiming that they are not going to heaven. Some people use God’s name to proclaim others are sinful people because they . . . dance, wear certain clothes, have a tattoo, and all sorts of judgements that do not sound like our saving, loving God. Others claim in God’s name punishments that come from natural acts like diseases, weather related occurrences, and human instigated injustices.

The middle commandment, “⁸Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.”

This commandment is to give us a chance as a community to stop the work, that keeps our lives, and our world as we know it, going, and focus on a time of renewal with our God. On the Sabbath we come together to worship our God. This is an act that we do as a community for God and in the process God renews us with the Holy Spirit so that we are ready for another six days. We are to rest our bodies and take a break from the taxing of our labor. This is the commandment that most Americans need to work on.

We need to take a Sabbath day. I take a Sabbath day, but it may not be Sunday because I work most Sundays. Some of us in this congregation also work on Sunday. We are called to take a day of rest order to care for our minds, bodies and souls.

The fifth commandment, “¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” Honoring our parents is to respect, accept them as people, and provide for when they are too old to care for themselves.

The next four commandments may be summed by understanding that we should not do anything to another person that would take their life.

“¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

We often think of not bearing false witness as lying. This is not referring to what we call “white lies.” This refers lies that hurt someone’s reputation. Lies that take someone’s livelihood or cause them incredible pain.

The final commandments listed from today’s Big Ten list is: “¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Those of you that know me well, know that I have to try hard to remember anything having to do with sports, but today is your lucky day.

A couple of years ago, I learned about the commandments from the foreign country of Texas. Texas A&M football team was in the process of moving out of playing football in The Big Twelve Conference to play in the SEC Conference (Southeastern Conference). The University of Baylor is a Baptist college that never does much in football. They stink! The Aggies were looking to pull out, and play in the SEC in order to have better business opportunities for their school. Baylor had been trying to block the Aggies move so that they are not left in the dust with the other stinky football teams. You don't mess with Aggies, and get by with it. I know this from experience, because I have Aggies in my family. The Aggie alumni took up a collection, and put up a bill board right in front of freeway exit to Baylor's football stadium. The billboard was in bright Aggie maroon and kaki and said, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's conference deal." The Aggies raised more money than needed for the almost \$3000 billboard. They donated the rest of the money to help defer some of the costs of the fire fighters in Bastrop, Texas from all of the wild fires that year.

The bottom line with the Big Ten is to remember, and live by the plus one commandment, which is the greatest commandment and comes from Jesus. The greatest commandment is found in all three gospels, Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:27a, and says, Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' When we remember this one we keep all of the others. Let us live the word of our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

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

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 21791

* 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

Loving God, we thank you that through your son Jesus the Christ, we are one. Today we ask you to bless all of the places of worship that claim your Holy name, and bless the gifts and offerings presented this day to further your mission and ministry. Amen.

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation
by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us
That we might ever be
his living servant people
by his own death set free.

2. Called forth from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation;
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing
and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing,
by Christ's own Spirit led.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
But soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

5. We now on earth have union
with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

* BENEDICTION

May we live as people who not only keep the Ten Commandments, but live the greatest commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen.

* POSTLUDE

"Spirit of the Living God" (Iverson)