

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

Loving God, you have promised that peace will come in its time when we learn to love our neighbor as ourself. You've taught us that love fulfills the law because it does no harm to a neighbor. Bring the night of our dark violence to an end by teaching us to see you in the eyes of our neighbor. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbor as well. Teach us to live in peace with one another. May we find inner peace as we learn to live in peace together. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- * To believe in God is not just to love life, but to work so that there is life . Jon Sobrino
- God is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better men and women. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRAISE SONG: Justice Means (verses 2, 4, 6, & 8) (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We live in a world torn by violence and war

People: but God promises us that a time is coming when

Leader: we will be made one in God's love.

People: The nations will beat their swords into ploughshares

Leader: and their spears into pruning hooks.

People: Nation will not take up sword against nation,

Leader: nor will they train for war anymore.

People: Lord, help us to work to transform the world we live in.

OUR CONFESSION:

All: God, source of blessing and hope, we turn to you with questions in our hearts. Can we find some common ground upon which to build a new community? Can we confess our racism and find a deeper love beyond all color? Can we cast out fear, and trust you for our needs and trust one another in love? Can we talk instead of fight, disarm instead of escalate; take a risk for peace instead of preparing for war?

Great God of life, you love this world and grieve when we cause harm to any of its people. You are saddened by hungry families, warring tribes, abused children.

God, source of hope, bringer of peace, restore in us a vision of a human community where all are valued, and peace is a daily offering; and then help us work for such a community. Hear our prayer, God of justice and peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: Stir Us, Lord (music at end of bulletin)

THE GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37 (The Message)

This is often called The Parable of the Good Samaritan. In it Jesus is again emphasizing it is not just enough to hear what God, as creator and owner wants, but to actually do it. A question from a religious leader prompts Jesus to tell this story of love in action.

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

²⁷ He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

"The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

MESSAGE: "But What About Fixing the Road?" Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Canticle of the Turning (verses 2, 3, & 4) (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: God of the Movements and Martyrs (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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God of the Movements and Martyrs

