

**February 24, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**7th Sunday after Epiphany**

When Jesus urged those listening to his lengthy sermon in Luke 6 to do good, bless and pray for their enemies, he wasn't advocating some "kill them with kindness" tactic. Jesus was not suggesting that loving your enemies was a type of insidious torture for them. The love Jesus was advocating was to be genuine. It was to be the essential mark of a Christian.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Hymnal 573 O Zion, haste** (seated) *Tidings*

**Greeting**

Leader: You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

**People: All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!** *Psalm 32:11 (CEV)*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit**  10:45 Psalm 84 *Hart Morris*

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord.

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Look, here is our God, the One we have waited for.

**People: Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

Leader: Come feast on God’s holy banquet.

**People: Enjoy the blessings of the Lord, the vindication from our God.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord. *Adapted from Isaiah 25 & Psalm 24*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 679 O splendor of God’s glory bright** (standing) *Wareham*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**God of all peoples, we come together as a family. Some of us are just infants in our faith journey, while others are seasoned through years of following you. Today we gather to be fed — fed by your Word and fed through fellowship with one another. Help us in this time of worship to set aside the things in our lives that distract us. Help us to be able in this moment to re-center our lives so we can clearly hear you and continue to grow into the fullness of the calling of Christ. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3159 Let our earth be peaceful** (stanza 3, standing)*Raymond* **Let our lives be fruitful, beautiful and playful,**

**every day be thankful for the love of God.**

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**February Emphasis:** Presence Kim Palmer

**Open our minds to see your way,**

**Making our presence on this day.**

**And as we worship in this great church**

**Realizing this is where to search.**

**Silently now we wait for thee**

**Ready our God your will to see**

**Open our minds, illumine us**

**Spirit divine.**

**The Sign of Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Gathering Song**

**This, this is where children belong,**

**Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

**Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:**

**This is where children belong.** WORDS AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

(All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward.)

After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the Sanctuary near the end of the service, and parents may meet them.

**Anthem** 10:45 I can only imagine *Bart Millard, arr. Don Marsh*

I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by Your side.

I can only imagine what my eyes will see when Your face is before me.

Refrain: Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?

Will I dance for You, Jesus, or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in Your presence, to my knees will I fall?

Will I sing ‘Hallelujah!’ Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine when that day comes and I find myself standing in the Son.

I can only imagine when all I will do is forever worship You.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro 10:45 Joyce Magill

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

1 Corinthians 15:35-48 The resurrection of the body

**Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Festival Alleluia** (standing) *James Chepponis*

**Alleluia** (repeat 6 times)

Scripture Reading

**A Lesson from the Gospel**

Luke 6:27-38 Rules of behavior for God’s children

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45  *Taylor Davis*

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,

Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.

Save us, thy people from consuming passion,

who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,

bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,

still lest thy spirit unto us be given, to heal earth’s wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,

showing to wandering souls the path of light,

walk beside us lest the tempting byways lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o’er death victorious,

Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,

we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious,

thou art our Lord Thou dost forever reign. Hope of the world.

*text by Georgia Harkness (1891-1974)*

**Hymnal 219 What child is this** (stanza 3, standing) *Greensleeves*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;**

**the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

**haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The Mark of a Methodist” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Call to Presence –** *This month, as we approach the rail for prayer during the singing of the last hymn, consider your membership vow to be present with and for God – present for worship, present for others, and present for yourself. If you have not already done so, please make your “vow of presence” by placing your card in the basket with others.*

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 664 Sent forth by God’s blessing** (standing) *The Ash Grove*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 664 Sent forth by God’s blessing:**  *The Ash Grove*

**2….Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving**

**give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Rob and Jane Spicher in loving memory of their parents: Howard and Marie Spicher and Richard and Bonnie Greene.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Jim and Nancy Lutz in honor of the Handbell Ministry.

**The rosebud on the altar** is given in celebration of the birth of Alice Victoria Streets, born January 17 to Joanna Whitlock-Streets and Ryan Streets and proud siblings Noah, Elsie, and Charlotte.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with pianist Cori DeLuca; and the Youth Choir.

**Acolytes** Lydia Slater and Logan Walters

**Greeters 8:30** Marsha Manke **10:45** Betty Lou Albright

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-48**

**The Resurrection Body**

35 But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ 36Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.39Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. 41There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45Thus it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.48As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

**Luke 6:27-38**

**Love for Enemies**

27 ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**Judging Others**

37 ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. Beginning March 1, the cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Dave Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Sara Mercer,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

Ruth Seip, Carol Van Sickle, George

Lindow

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,   
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,   
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,  
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,   
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,   
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,  
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Become a Greeter: Extend a Welcome Hand**

The Sunday morning greeter is often the first person a visitor or member contacts on entering the church. A greeter’s smile, handshake and cheerful words may set the tone for not only a church goer’s worship experience, but also an entire day. MLUMC is in need of Sunday morning greeters, particularly for the 8:30 am service. Consider serving at one of the two worship services. You’ll become a vital part of the church’s ministry of hospitality and make new friends. If you can offer this service once or twice a year, fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or deliver it to the office.

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**Greeter Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Worship service choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_8:30 \_\_\_\_\_\_10:45**

**Phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 2**

**SUNDAY 2/24**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

10:45 am UMW Soup &n Salad Luncheon Asbury

11:50 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

5 pm Youth Group Asbury

7 pm Troop 23 leadership Meeting Wesley

**MONDAY 2/25**

7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 2/26**

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley Hall

7 pm Board of Reviews Network

**WEDNESDAY 2/27**

7 pm Bear, Tiger, Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 2/28**

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room