



**Order of Worship
October 10, 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM**

*10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Faith Everlasting

Warriner

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship (Liturgist Only)

Susan Whitman

With you, O Lord, all things are possible. We bless you and praise your name forever. In you, O Lord, we find our home. We bless you and praise your name forever. Through you, O Lord, we are made one in Christ. We bless you and praise you, O Christ, for your saving love.

Opening Prayer (Liturgist Only)

Susan Whitman

Almighty God, we long to rest in your gentle arms. We need your compassion as we face the challenges and disappointments of life. When our hearts are hard, and our concern is only for ourselves, turn us back to you. Remind us of your saving love and keep us close to you, Lord. Love us as only you can love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn

O Jesus, I Have Promised

UMH 396

Children's Message

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

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.

Ministry of Music

Another in the Fire

Quinn Hetherington

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Susan Whitman

With a reverent sense of your presence and your Spirit's gift of guidance, we gratefully approach your word today, Holy God. Help us meditate on the message you intend for us and be open to your life-giving truth. Amen.

Introduction to Hebrews 4:12-16

Susan Whitman

Hebrews 4:12 is one of the most quoted verses of the New Testament. This verse refers to the will of God, the truth of God, the good news of Jesus Christ, the decrees of God, the Holy Scriptures, and the Son of God. God's Word is an eternal mysterious and powerful force.

It has been said that if we read the written Word with faith, then it begins to read us. Nothing is hidden from God. Nothing about our own motives, our own desires, our own hearts, is hidden from the Word of God. Our hearts are laid bare before God's Word and God's Truth.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

Susan Whitman

Jesus the Great High Priest

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Introduction to Mark 10:17-31

Susan Whitman

This story is part of the teaching block on discipleship that runs from Mark 8:27-10:45, united by Jesus' three-fold prediction of his suffering, death and resurrection. After each prediction, the disciples expose their misunderstanding of Jesus' mission and their

participation in it, and Jesus teaches what it means to follow him. To follow Jesus means to deny oneself and take up one's cross, in imitation of Jesus' own self-sacrificial service.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)

The Rich Man

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Living Word

Pastor Debra

Call to Confession

Pastor Debra

Our Lord is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses. In every respect, he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness to receive his mercy and grace.

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

Lord, we look for you in the wrong places. We put our trust in material things. We worry about things we cannot change. We wonder if you are even there at all. For all the times

we have doubted you, Lord, forgive us. For all the ways we have neglected your word and ignored your people, forgive us. Do not be far from us, Lord. There is no one else we can turn to for help. Renew our fickle hearts and help us put our trust in you.

Assurance of Pardon

There is no wrong that God cannot make right. There is no chasm that can separate us from God's love. The Lord is patient and kind, generous and good. God will not forsake you or leave you. Turn to the Lord with confidence and put your faith in God's great mercy. By the power of Jesus Christ, we are made whole. Amen.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Susan Whitman

**Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication- All Praying*

Susan Whitman

Almighty God, you continue to bless our lives in many intangible ways. When our financial gifts are used to support mission and ministry, we see other people blessed in very tangible ways. Our desire is to place you first in our financial decision-making. May our offerings be a time when we do place you first and when we are grateful for the opportunity to support mission and ministry in your name. We pray in the name of the One through whom all things are possible. Amen. *Mark 10:17-31*

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

The Summons

UMH 2130

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Sung Benediction

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

The Spirit sends us forth to serve;

We go in Jesus' name

To bring glad tidings to the poor,

God's favor to proclaim.

Postlude

Sing to the Lord

Smith

OH JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

*O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.*

THE SUMMONS

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*