



“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10b

“Looking Back”

**Order of Worship
October 23, 2022
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

A Call to Silence

This year the Stock Market crashed. The higher cost of food, utilities, gasoline, school supplies, etc., drain our already tight budgets. Our feelings about this can range from anger to despair. Over the next four weeks, as we open our eyes and come out of any avoidance we have regarding our feelings about money, we pause and ask God to be with us on this journey, giving us fresh perspectives that can shift any “dis-ease” that holds us back from a courageous vision about our money paths. We have compassion for ourselves and for each other because the systems of money we live in are not easy to navigate.

Welcome

Prelude

In Perfect Peace

Sung Response

Be Thou My Vision, Verse One

UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Opening Litany

Lighting the Candle of Faith

Carolyn Masters

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;

here there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility;
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.
Open us to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us
for a “wonder-full” life.

Opening Hymn

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
See last page for words

Passing the Peace of Christ

A Wonder-Full Life

To be full of love,
To be full of grace,
To be full of peace
Is a wonder full life.

Giving others love
Giving others grace
Giving others peace
Is a wonder full life.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and truth,
we have strayed from you in thought, word and deed:
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have disregarded what is holy
trying to satisfy ourselves
by our own means . . .
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves:
and feel helpless against those
who seek to frustrate the hopes of the poor
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

O God, who is a God like you,
a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness?

**Lord God; be our refuge and our deliverance;
by the presence and power of your Spirit,
change us so that we may delight in your desire to do justice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Ministry of Music *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* Quinn and Brenda Hetherington

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Voice of God: "There's a man down on earth that needs our help."

Pastor Debra: "Clarence, the Angel, responds..."

"Is he sick?"

Voice of God:

"No, worse, he's discouraged."

Sung Response

Be Thou My Vision, Second Verse

UMH 451

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Carolyn Masters

Matthew 22:15-22 (CEB)

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked. "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

This is a Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Looking Back" Pastor Debra

Preparation for Prayer *Thank You, Lord* UMH 83

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Morning Prayer Pastor Debra

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Praise Response *Thank You, Lord* UMH 83

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Offertory Invitation Pastor Debra

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

A Quiet Blessing

**Doxology*

Be Thou My Vision, Verse Three

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

**Prayer of Dedication*

Carolyn Masters

Gracious God, Looking back, we see the generosity of those who came before us, acknowledging their hardships and struggles, their joys and gains that bring us to the place we are now. In looking back, help us to build a foundation for those who will look back at *our* lives, those who will be affected by what we do, what we offer, what we give. Help us to rejoice in the knowledge that lives are being changed now and in the future because of what we are able to do with this collective offering. In the name of the one who calls us to the loyalty of justice, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH 87

See words on last page

Benediction

Pastor Debra

In the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," there is a toast that will serve as part of our blessing during this series. George and Mary generously help one Italian family, the Martinis, move into their new home in Bailey Park, where four-room frame houses have been constructed for immigrant families. Mary and George offer a brief speech at the Martinis' doorstep during a housewarming party, symbolically holding up a loaf of bread, a bottle of wine, and a box of salt:

"Bread! That this house may never know hunger.
Salt! That life may always have flavor.
And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever."

All of those symbols carry messages from our faith journey:
The Bread of Life is the true sustenance that God provides.
The Fruit of the Vine is the love poured out by Jesus—
a sign of the never-ending grace that is ours now and always.

And we have been called us to be Salt of the Earth,
so that all might savor the spice of life
that is the Holy Spirit's presence among us.

You have been reminded of these things here in this time together,
Now go and do likewise in the world,
for it IS "a wonderful life!"

Postlude

Sing to the Lord

10,000 REASONS

Refrain:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.
Worship His Holy name,
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I worship Your holy name.*

*1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. **Refrain***

*2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **Refrain***

*3. And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
ten thousand years and then forever-more. **Refrain***

WHAT GIFT CAN WE BRING

*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we offer in honor and praise?*

*Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,
who planted and watered so dreams could come true.
Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,
for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.*

*Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,
the Word is our promise always, forever;
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love.*

*This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!*