

Sunday October 10, 2021
The Disciples Were Perplexed

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The word of God is alive and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

People: **We cannot hide
for we are naked and laid bare
to the one whom we must render an account.**

Leader: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you
and I and yet was without sin.

People: **We approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in our time of need.**

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.
Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone,
it is hardly divided fairly.
There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day
and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime.
May we remember that all we have comes from you
and that you have entrusted to us all that we have.
May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of
us.
Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to bring about
justice for all in love. Amen.**

Hymn #224: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Carol Bellamy

1) When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Christ of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2) Forbid it, then, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.

3) From sacred head, from hands, and feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4) Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer of Confession Unison

**Almighty and Holy One,
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.
We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,
and still we acquire more.
We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.
We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their
need.
But we, O God, need your forgiveness
for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.
Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly
so we can share our own abundance more equitably. Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.
True comfort comes from God's love for us
and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.
By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Carol Griffith

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (NIV)

23:1 Then Job answered:

23:2 "Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

23:3 Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!

23:4 I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

23:5 I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me.

23:6 Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me.

23:7 There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

23:8 "If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him;

23:9 on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

23:16 God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me;

23:17 If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!

Special Music

Rachel Alexander

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-31 (NIV)

10:17 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?"

10:18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

10:19 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.'"

10:20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

10:21 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."

10:22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

10:23 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!"

10:24 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!

10:25 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."

10:26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

10:28 Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

10:29 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,

10:30 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.

10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Musical Interlude

Sermon: The Disciples Were Perplexed

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

We should not forget that our offering should be the first fruits of our labors which we dedicate to God. Not only do we honor God by this offering, but it also helps us not to keep the best of what we have for ourselves. By giving our first fruits to God, we help to ensure that those who have little will receive something and we who have much do not keep it entirely for ourselves.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**Generous God, we thank you for all that we have
for all of it comes from you.
We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you.**

**May our offerings sustain and support
the work of this church to close the disparity
between those who have much and those who have little
in this community. Amen.**

Benediction Unison

**Let us count our days that we may gain a wise heart.
Let God satisfy us this morning with steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Let us depart in peace and let God's favor be upon us to prosper the work
of our hands.**

(Based upon Psalm 90:12, 14, 17 adapted)