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Reverend Jim Harper III, Pastor

JULY 10, 2016

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OPENING OF WORSHIP

Prelude ***Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart***
Don Hustad

***Opening Words of Worship** (Responsively)

There's a story to be told, a love to be taught;
witness of things seen and unseen.

Lord, tell me the story; teach me the love; open my eyes.

There's a world too long dear, words too long unspoken;
a story that needs to be told.

Lord, give me the words; send me to speak; teach me your story.

There's a book too long unopened by the power of the voice.
A heart too long unmoved by the silence of our song.

A world hungry to know the story of our God. Who will go to teach and to tell?
Here I am, Lord; send me.

~ Adapted from a prayer written by unknown author

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* Please stand if you are able

***Opening Song** (Printed)

Here I Am, Lord

***Opening Prayer** (Responsively)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Amen. **Amen.**

~ A New Creed, The United Church of Canada, General Council, 1968, alt.

***Gloria Patri** (Unison)

Henry W. Greatorex (From Red Hymnal #623)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

***Welcome to Our Guest(s)**

After you fill out a Guest Card, please place it in the offertory plate later in the service.

Greet one another and pass along the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You may say, "Peace be with you." The response is "And also with you."

Celebrating Our Lives and Faith Together

SHARING OF GOD'S STORY

Scriptures of the Day

Luke 10:25-37

Loving Your Neighbor

²⁵ A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

²⁷ He responded, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*"

²⁸ Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live." ²⁹ But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. ³¹ Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his

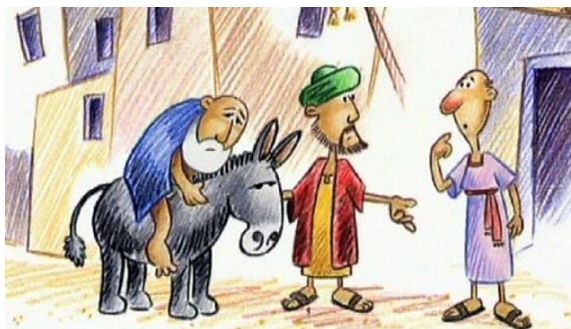
way. ³² Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. ³³ A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, "Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs." ³⁶ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

³⁷ Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

~ Scripture Reading from the Common English Bible (CEB)

Meditation

Caring Neighbors



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Call to Confession (Responsively)

In the lives of neighbors who suffer brokenness and pain:
We confess You are still speaking!

In the struggle of the poor whose rights are not honored:
We confess You are still speaking!

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* Please stand if you are able

In a world crying out for wisdom, love and mercy:

We confess You are still speaking!

In a world calling for the blessing of truth:

We confess You are still speaking! Teach us to hear!

Let us confess together:

**We confess that in our lives we often hide behind
our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion.**

**We let ourselves get so busy that
we forget the cause of the poor and the suffering.**

**We confess we allow the powers of this world
to seduce us into selfishness and silence our witness.**

**Teach us to champion the cause for justice for all,
strengthen us to love our neighbor
and speak truth no matter the penalty. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Love (Responsively)

The Word of God assures us
that we are able to love through the Spirit of Christ.

Let us go from this place with authority,
knowing that God's Word gives us strength
to love our neighbors near and far
and power to speak up for those who are broken.

Thanks to the Word of God!

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The Prayer of Our Savior #426 (Unison)

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS AND GOD'S GIFTS

Call to Give (Responsively)

We are called to love and obey God's still-speaking voice.
Let us give freely to the building of God's kingdom on earth.
Come now and share your gifts, tithes, and offerings.
Let us give as God has blessed us to give.

Amen.

Amen.

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Offertory

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African-American Spiritual

Eva Morse, Vocalist

***Doxology** (Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise God and Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**O God, we offer these gifts, tithes, and offerings
for the building of your kingdom on earth.
Bless the gift and the givers.
Bless all who offer time,
talent and treasure in your service.
We offer this prayer in your holy name. Amen.**

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CLOSING OF WORSHIP

***Closing Hymn #285**

In Christ There is No East or West

(Verses 1 & 4)

***Closing Words of Worship** (Unison)

**Our worship has ended,
But now our service begins!
Go from this place for you
and I are the body of Christ
and the whole world awaits us;
So live passionately, and love faithfully,
and celebrate every moment of your life
from now until the Finale.
Our God of relentless grace goes with us!
Amen.**

~ Adapted from a prayer written by The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

Postlude

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Carl G. Glaser

Time with your Children and the Bible this Week

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Luke 10:25-37 — Who Is Your Neighbor? by Lois Parker Edstrom

Object needed: Picture of guide dog available online at:

<http://www.iaadp.org/photo.html>

Dogs are wonderful pets. Certain types of dogs are also trained to assist people in special ways. Guide dogs are trained to help people who are visually impaired. These dogs enable their owner to be out and about in the world. They let their owner know when and where there is a curb, stairs or obstacle in their path. The guide dog helps keep its owner safe. The guide dog and its owner work together as a team and form a close bond to one another.

Another type of specially trained dog is the service dog. These dogs often work with people who are in wheelchairs. They learn to open and close doors, turn lights switches off and on and get items that the person with a physical disability might need.

Hearing dogs are dogs that are trained to assist people who cannot hear. They let their owners know when the telephone rings, the oven timer goes off, the smoke alarm sounds, someone knocks at the door or a baby cries. They go to their owner and lead them to the source of the sound.

All of these dogs are trained to be helpful. They are helping dogs that work with their owners in the spirit of cooperation.

As we think about these helping dogs, let's think of ways we could be more helpful to others. It may be that we can get the mail or pull weeds for an elderly person, read to younger brothers or sisters, help mom in the kitchen, vacuum the car or make our bed without being asked. Can you think of other ideas that would make things easier for a family member, a friend or a neighbor?

In the Bible a man asks Jesus questions and one of the things Jesus teaches him is to love his neighbor. When the man asks, "Who is my neighbor?" (10:29) Jesus answers

by telling him a story. It is the story of a man who was injured and lay along the road needing help. Two persons passed by without helping him, but a third person, a Samaritan stopped and bandaged his wounds and took him to an inn where he would get care.

It seems as if one of the things the story is telling us is that a neighbor is anyone who needs our help. There are many things that family members can do to help one another and there are many things the family can do together to help their neighbors. This spirit of cooperation forms close bonds and honors the commandment to love your neighbor.

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Who do you identify with the most in today's Gospel story...

- The **Legal Expert**.
- The **Man beaten** and robbed then rescued.
- The **Priest** who crossed over to the other side of the road.
- The **Levite** who gawked at the victim long enough to see blood and then retreated to a safer distance.
- The **Samaritan** who responded out of compassion and was found faithful.
- The **Innkeeper** intrigued by the generosity of the Samaritan, but skeptical of who will really end up paying the bill.
- **Jesus**