

# CLOSING WORSHIP; Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2019

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*CATAMARAN RESORT; SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA; Wednesday, October 02, 2019; 11:30am*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Many Christians today struggle to live into a confession of faith. People think of themselves as believers yet the focus and energy to be a Christian in the world today is different from times in the past. Today's culture is more diverse, moves more quickly and is more media driven. The pace of life often pulls people away from God's word, a life of reflection and daily prayer.

Yet, there are still there are faithful followers, always being made in and through God's word.

WE are some of those people; the people whom the Holy Spirit inspires to be leaders who nurture vitality in God's church for the present and the future.

Please join me in a responsive reading of an ancient story by which we are reminded of our calling together to the work of God's kingdom—from Mark 12, verses 28-34, from The Message translation:

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

**Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."**

The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"

**When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."**

Now, think about your role as a disciple of Jesus, steward of God's grace and leader in your faith community. These roles are ways you can both live into what you believe, what you are called to do, and model for others. It is the vitality you gain from this journey that helps others become aware of God's presence in their life and provides pathways for all God's

people to grow together.

Silence for personal reflection.

\* OPENING HYMN #480—“Take Me to the Water”

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Please pray with me.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with your Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, for the beautiful waters of the Pacific Ocean, the backdrop of exquisite sunsets; for the waters of the bay that we have overlooked this week and provided view after view of your world’s beauty for us these days; for the water we take for granted—that quenches our thirst, affords bathing, teeth-brushing, and indoor plumbing that not everyone has access to.

We are grateful for the waters in which we were baptized, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ we were given there.

Now, shower us with your spirit, in the gift of your Word; renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love—that we may be sent forth to renew others.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### WORD

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW; TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 25, VERSES 31-46:

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people

one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

\* HYMN #769 "For Everyone Born" (Verses 1-3 and 5)

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

## INTERPRETATION OF THE OFFERING

The conference offering is to be divided equally between the Presbytery of San Diego's PRESBYTERIAN URBAN MINISTRIES (PCUSA) and the WELCOME MINISTRY OF EL CAJON (ELCA).

### **Presbyterian Urban Ministries**

Located in the heart of San Diego, Presbyterian Urban Ministries (PUM) is dedicated to helping those in need with a focus on a hand up rather than just hand outs. Guided by Christ's mandate to serve with compassion and humility, PUM staff and volunteers offer prayers and counseling while connecting clients to a food pantry, donated clothing, job training, and transportation.

## Welcome Ministry of El Cajon

Proclaiming the hope and love of a gracious God to all people and especially to those experiencing homelessness. We welcome the faithful, the seeker, the curious and the doubter for God's embrace is wide and God's love and salvation are for All! We gather; we pray; we sing; we pass the peace; we receive Holy Communion; we have lunch together. We share the great fellowship of the Spirit – the same treasured fellowship that all experience when meeting in “housed” congregations. All receive the precious gift which none of us has earned, but which is given freely to all – a place at the Lord's Table.

### INVITATION TO GIVE—INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFERING

Now that you know what your giving is being used for, here are some instructions for HOW to give.

You should have a giving card [YELLOW, different from the ones at opening worship] for this service. Please turn to the GIVING side and fill out the financial gift you are making and how you're making it.

Write down how much, and which method you're choosing for this service.

Do this now.

Pause for card completing.

Now turn the card over, and begin completing the “blessing” side of the card. Begin with any blessings you have received from this conference.

...If you're willing, in six words or less, from where you are, shout out some of your blessings—it might be a workshop, or an idea, or realization—don't tell us the whole story just a word or phrase, shouting “popcorn style.”

### INVITATION TO RECEIVE

[At this point, instead of “receiving” the offering, we will do the reverse offering—invite participants to “receive” the stone as a “sign” and reminder of this experience.]

Family in Faith,

Giving begins with God, who has given to us all things. God gives to us. Our first act is receiving from God.

The offering plates are going to be passed. DO NOT put your card in the offering plate!

DO take a rock out of the offering plate as a sign and reminder of this experience and God's call to you to receive God's blessings and participate in exchanging those blessings for more blessings.

You can continue to fill out your offering and blessing cards as the offering plates are being passed. Please hold on to your offering cards until the end of the service—at which time we want you to GIVE—including your completed offering card—at the giving station in the back of the room.

The purpose is for us to compile a list of giving WITHOUT ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION and share in a follow-up email gifts received and given and to-be-given.

When all have received, we will sing the Doxology together and begin our Commissioning Service.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

### \* SUNG RESPONSE

♪ **“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; circling through earth so all may grow; vanquishing fear so all may give; sustaining grace so all may live. AMEN.”** ♪

New words for the Doxology, traditional tune, © Eric Law

## SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Family of God, ...in the words of the Apostle Paul:

I appeal to you therefore, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.**

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

**making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is**

## **above all and through all and in all.**

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Disciples of Jesus, these have been precious days afforded you by our Savior. You have been gifted with new ideas, words of wisdom, opportunities to ask questions. You have shared in beautiful surroundings and reprieve from daily tasks to bask in God's goodness and share in God's love.

Now, all these blessings are available to you to be exchanged for more blessings!

You return home with "extra baggage"—new knowledge, new relationships, old relationships rekindled, ideas, enthusiasm, new experiences. You have stories to share and stories to write!

Think again about your role as a steward of God's grace and leader in your faith community.

What are the roles and ways you can live into what you believe, what you are called to do, and model for others? What is the vitality you have gained from this journey that can help others become aware of God's presence in their life? How will you provide pathways for all God's people to grow together in stewardship?

Participants: the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

**I do.**

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**I will, with God's help.**

## COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.

We thank you for leading each of us to this time and place.

Establish us in your truth, and guide *us* by your Holy Spirit, that in your service we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Be with us now, Giving God, that we might take our blessings and exchange them with others—spreading the good news of your love, and your love of giving.

Remind us by the signs that we have been given, and the gifts we now have to share, that we are might offer ourselves and our gifts to your ministry.

Bless us with homeward journeys and refreshed Spirits, that we might lend our whole selves to your continued service.

And let us all join in praying together:

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.**

Participants, we are commissioned to service as disciples and stewards.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING**

\* HYMN #297 “In Christ Called to Baptize”

BLESSING AND CHARGE

OFFERING (THE ‘GIVE’ OFFERING)

\* POSTLUDE HYMN #539 “WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY IN THE SPIRIT”

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WORSHIP NOTES:

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