

Today's sermon continues the *Sermon on the Mount* series.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ calls us to come and worship.
To rest from the things that are troubling us,
to learn what Christ can teach of life,
to realize what we can offer to others
and so to return into the world to serve.
Let us worship God!

HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we don't always understand our own actions. We clearly know what is right— what you expect of us— but we don't always do it. We also clearly know what is wrong— the thoughts and actions that hurt others and ourselves— but we do these things anyway. Forgive us, and release us of the heavy burdens of sin and selfishness, through grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, our gentle and humble Master.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on Psalm 145:8, 14

People of God, know this:
Our God is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.
When we stumble, he is there to catch us;
when we are weighed down, he is there to lift us up.
So be at peace: your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!



SCRIPTURE READINGS: John 8:1-11 and
Matthew 7:1-6, 12

MESSAGE *Sermon on the Mount:*
Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

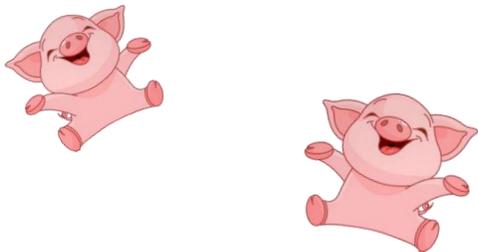
HYMN *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.



OFFERING

DOXOLOGY (#607 in hymnal)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**Help us who have received so freely from you
to give as freely in our turn,
and so have the joy of giving
as well as the blessing of receiving,
through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.**



HYMN *Called as Partners*

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment,
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfil God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer poorer,
all God's people young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

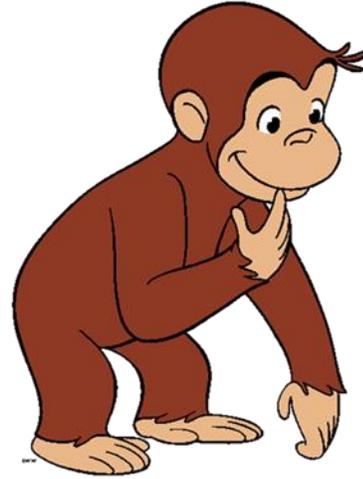
BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21



It's better to be



curious



than furious.