

Sunday, November 22, 2020

We answer Christ's call by:

Worshiping God

Welcoming All

Caring for Human Dignity

Serving in the World

PRELUDE

We Gather Together

Pat Singer

WELCOME & LIFE IN THE CHURCH

- Today is Stewardship Sunday, Nov 22 - Look for the mailing and take time to discern what monies, time and talent you are able to share with Germonds Church for 2021. Please join us for the Zoom gathering to follow the service.
 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 2020 - Tuesday, November November 24th, 7:30 p.m. Zoom
 - Ramapo Community Chefs - Help out families struggling with food insecurity. Contact Betsy Bostwick or Sue Ternquist.
 - In years past Church in Society has had two collection drives for People to People during the Holidays to help families and children in need in Rockland. This year, the need is so much greater, but instead of collection drives at the church, we are asking you to drop off your donations directly at People to People at 121 West Nyack Road. (Details including a link to their website, hours of operation, and a map were included in this Friday's Wrap-Up.)
1. Turkey Round-Up: Please keep up our long-standing tradition!!! and drop off your Frozen Turkeys at their Delivery Entrance until Wed., Nov. 25th.

2. Project Joy: Instead of gifts for children, People to People is requesting that we provide families with Gift Cards from stores such as Target, Kohl's, Old Navy, Amazon, etc. Please drop off your Gift Cards at their Office by Dec. 4th.

- Share Your Musical Gifts - December 27 (Due December 12)

CHORAL INTROIT

For All the Saints

Germonds Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Heather C. Santini

One: We come to worship a generous and loving God.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: We will praise the Lord as long as we have breath.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: Our hope is in our Lord, our God.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: We give thanks for the gift of all of God's creation.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: We give thanks for God's help in times of need.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: We give thanks for God's mercy in times of trouble.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: We know that God will be with us always.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, we pray that we will make stewardship a way of Life. We acknowledge you as the source of all we have and all we are.

Help us to place you, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things.

Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes.

Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action. Help us plan to "give back" the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed.

Help us plan to serve our church, our community, and our world with your gifts.

May we serve you and pray with a joyful spirit of mind and heart.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Heather C. Santini

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, **8** a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, **9** a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. **10** You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

11 Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. **12** When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, **13** and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, **14** then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, **15** who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous[a] snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, **16** and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. **17** Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” **18** But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heather C. Santini

Together we confess that a generous spirit does not always accompany our acts of giving.

God, forgive us. Our efforts to love you with heart, soul, mind, and strength often fall short. Our lack of trust in you hinders our ability to give ourselves completely to you. We stubbornly deny that you know what is best for us. Our mindset of meagerness keeps us from loving our neighbors, and ourselves. Help us to let go of our mentality of scarcity and lean into your spirit of generosity. Forgive us for our selfish ways or fearful stockpiling.

[a time for silent confession]

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love was poured out on us with abandon. God's generosity knows no bounds. God wraps us in God's grace that was in no way earned, but freely given. We give thanks for this life-giving, abundant love. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. **2** A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." **6** So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. **7** All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." **8** Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." **9** Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

MESSAGE

"Gratitude"

Rev. Abbie Huff

ANTHEM

Let Us Break Bread Together

David Morgans Sanchez

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Now Go in Joy

Germonds Choir

POSTLUDE

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Pat Singer