

Jacob Hanson

02-03-2019

Sermon Title: "The Two Sacraments"

Prelude

UMH #142 "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

TFWS #2251 "We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus"/UMH #393 "Spirit of the Living God" (Twice)

Responsive Reading: UMH# 747 Psalm 15

Greeting

Sharing of Blessings and Concerns

Baptism: UMH #33 parts 1-11 (Not all parts will be read, only portions dealing with Baptism)

Communion: UMH #12 "A Service of Word and Table II" (Not reading the portion about the giving of peace or offering)

Exodus 13:21-22

Joshua 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-11

Luke 22:14-20

Sermon: "The Two Sacraments"

Sermon Song: TFWS #2268 "As We Gather at Your Table"/UMH #699 "Come, and Let Us Sweetly Join"

Offering

Doxology: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #95

UMH #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements/Dismissal

Postlude

Questions:

- 1) We are looking at the two sacraments today in service. What are they, and what is the definition of a sacrament?
- 2) Baptism is only done once in the life of a Christian, why?
- 3) Holy Communion is done many time throughout our lives, why?

Memory Verse: Mark 1:11 "And a voice came out of the heavens: 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.'"

Pastor Jacob Hanson
02/03/2019

Opening Prayer

(Kasson) Good morning, and welcome again here to Kasson United Methodist Church! You are getting the full dosage of liturgical stuff today with both a Baptism and Communion. There is great joy in both of these things. In the case of Baptism it marks today for Lincoln (and when you were baptized it marked for you) the beginning of his journey with the Lord. In the case of Communion, it is a reminder for us about what this journey with the Lord is really all about, that our Creator loves us as His people, loves us enough to die for us. In our churches this month we are going to be talking about what it means for us to be good church members. We are not going to be talking about the specifics of the United Methodist Church per se, but rather what it means for anyone who calls themselves a Christian to be truly within the church. You cannot have that discussion without talking about the two sacraments, Baptism and communion, which is what we are looking at today.

First of all though, what is a sacrament? A sacrament, simply stated, is a physical practice that is instituted by Jesus that we are supposed to participate in. In other words, did Jesus do it and did He command that all of us as Christians should do it? If yes, then it is a sacrament. (That is the shortened version.) In the United Methodist Church, and in most churches, there are two recognized sacraments... both of which we have participated in together today. Baptism, and Communion are the sacraments that we celebrate.

In our scripture readings from the Old Testament, we get an idea about where our first sacrament, the practice of Baptism, comes from. The Israelites, when they left Egypt, were lead by the Lord to the Red Sea. When the Egyptians pursued them, it looked as though there was no way out, that the Lord did not make a way for them... and so the Lord through Moses parted the Red Sea, and allowed the Israelites to cross on dry ground. Through the water the Lord saved them and allowed them to begin their journey as His people. Later, when the Israelites came to the Jordan after wandering in the desert for forty years, again they crossed on dry ground through the river to enter the promised land. By passing through the water the Israelites were able to go where the Lord had lead them, the promised place, and so a part of their prescribed religious laws going forward was to enter the water in specified way... thereby signifying this transformation. This is the symbolism behind the sacrament of Baptism. It isn't just some fancy words that are said and a practice that we do because there is some obscure reason, but rather it is an homage to the passing from death to life that is coming into our Lord's kingdom. Jesus Himself, we read, was Baptized in that same river Jordan by John the Baptist. It was at that moment we read when His ministry began, it was the start of the journey. The practice of Baptism marks the beginning of the Christian journey today, and we are told to do it by Christ Himself. We are told that it is Holy. If you were around a couple weeks ago then this verse from Matthew 28:19 will sound familiar: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." We are called to Baptize others, to mark the beginning of their journey with the Lord. How great is it that today we here at Kasson United Methodist Church were blessed to witness the beginning of Lincoln's journey! Just as you only begin a

journey once, you are only to be Baptized once. Once you are on the road with the Lord you don't need to be rebaptized even if you get lost from time to time. Baptism, only needs to be done once to signify that you are beginning your journey with Jesus. Communion, however, is different from Baptism. It is not to be done once, but many times.

Communion is the other sacrament that we celebrate in our church. If Baptism is the beginning of our Christian journey, then Communion is a reminder for us along the way about why we are on that journey in the first place. In our reading from Luke we looked at the institution of Communion by Jesus. He starts this practice just hours before He is arrested and crucified, at the Last Supper. Without getting into the nitty gritty details about big special words like transubstantiation, it is important for us to note that we are told to do this in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. It is by Jesus's death and resurrection that we are healed from our sins. It is through His crucifixion that we are able to know God personally. When we take Communion, when we participate in this Holy act, we are to remember what it took for us to become separated from our sins. It took the body and blood of Jesus. This is why Jesus tells us "This is my body, given for you and for many," and "This is my blood, poured out for you and for many." This is why when we take Communion we change our normal Sunday programming and solemnly come before the Lord. It is an important thing to remember Christ's sacrifice, that we are sinners, and that it is through His sacrifice that we are saved.

The last note for us today in regards to the sacraments has to do with what they mean for us in the church. Hopefully you recognized that in participating in both of these sacraments today that all of us in the church were involved. Every person in God's church plays a role in

these sacraments, and the ideal is that every Christian in God's church participates in both of these acts. Every one of us as Christians should be Baptized and take Communion, because it is those two things that draw us together. Baptism and Communion are unifying things for us as God's church. These two sacraments, these two practices, are important for us as we serve the Lord not only because they mark the beginning of our Christian journey and remind us about it along the way, but they also unify us as God's people. How wonderful that we were able to participate in both this morning. Hopefully as you leave here today you would recognize that Baptism and Communion are not just religious things that we do... but integral parts of being in God's church. Let's Pray.

Closing Prayer

Memory Verse: Mark 1:11 "And a voice came out of the heavens: 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.'"

Pastor Jacob Hanson
02/03/2019

Opening Prayer

(Pleasant Corners) Good morning and welcome again to Pleasant Corners United Methodist Church. As we open a new month we now move into a new topic for our upcoming services. What we are looking at in the month of February is membership within the United Methodist Church. We are not looking at the specifics of the UMC per se, but rather what it means for us to be good church members as a whole. These truths that we talk about apply not just to us, but really to any Bible believing Christian. Over the course of February we will talk about our gifts within the church, our services outside to the community, the importance of prayer as a Christian body, and the importance of meeting together as God's church. But today, it is appropriate that we begin our discussion of good church membership by talking about the two sacraments that we celebrate... Communion and Baptism. You may be wondering why it is that we perform these two acts, and what makes them so special. Is there something in the water that we use to baptize that makes it important? Do we add a special holy ingredient to the bread when we eat it for communion? Do these two things even need to happen in order for a Christian to be a Christian? In a shortened fashion, those are the questions we are going to try to answer today.

First of all, what is a sacrament and why is it important? In most churches including the United Methodist Church, there are only two sacraments: communion and baptism. What denotes something as a

sacrament is that it is a practice that was instituted and commanded by Christ Himself. These two practices, Communion and Baptism, were both prescribed by and commanded to be done by Jesus. If you were here this last month in January you may remember hearing about how we are commanded to go and baptize others in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. That comes from Matthew 28:19. If you were paying attention the last time we took Communion, you may remember that in our reading from Luke that Christ says we are to pass the bread and the cup in remembrance of Him. We are commanded to be baptized and we are commanded to partake in communion by Jesus. When we get down to the bare bones basics about what a sacrament is, it is really a physical practice that Christ instituted that tangibly brings us back to the Lord. Baptism and Communion are something all of us as God's people experience and can relate to. As such, they are important. But why are we actually commanded to do these things? Now that we know what a sacrament is (a physical practice that Christ commanded us to do), what is it that makes these two actions so important? For Baptism, it marks our entry into the Christian faith. For communion, it marks a remembrance and acceptance of what Christ sacrificed for us.

When we baptize someone into the faith, they are being proclaimed as a part of God's kingdom. It marks the beginning of their journey in the Christian faith. It is not necessarily baptism which grants us salvation of course, that is made by receiving Christ into our hearts, but it marks the beginning of that journey in the life of an infant or an adult. That is why when the child (or adult of course) is presented both the congregation and the family make a series of proclamations that they will help to train up the child to know Jesus. Later in life, when the infant is able to make that decision on their own, those same vows are renewed.

Confirmation kids, I hope you are paying attention, because outside of the application of water, confirmation Sunday uses the exact same vows... because confirmation is a reaffirmation of your baptism. For you older adults, hopefully you recognize that anytime you do a reaffirmation of your faith or participate in the Baptism of another, you harken back to your own Baptism in the church. In addition to reminding us of our own beginnings in faith, Baptism also harkens back to many of the great points in scripture where God took His people and placed them in a new and better situation.

We read about the Hebrews walking through the Red Sea and through the Jordan River because that is where Baptism in scripture really gets its beginning. This journey of God's people from death to life, from being captives in Egypt or walking in the wilderness to finally coming home to where they belong marks the beginning of the journey. When the Israelites were lead to the Red Sea fleeing from Pharaoh, we read that they were in desperate straits... until the Lord allowed them to pass through the water. From death to life, their journey to the promised land really began right there. Later, when the Israelites finally end their wandering in the desert for forty years, they pass again from death to life through the water. Their beginning as God's people, as an established nation, is in that passing through the water. For us as Christians it is our entry point into the kingdom. It is a movement from death to life, and it marks the beginning of our walk with the Lord. Even Jesus Himself is Baptized as a symbol for all of us in our reading from Mark. It is there that we see the beginning of Christ's ministry. If all of that is too religious jargon-filled for you to easily understand, think about baptism as you starting your journey with the Lord. Baptism is not the end of the trip, but rather baptism is your beginning of that walk with the Lord that will play out over the course of your life.

If we continue with that same logic, while Baptism is the beginning of our journey, Communion is our reminder along the way about why it is that we started in the first place.

Communion is the other sacrament that we celebrate in our church. If Baptism is the beginning of our Christian journey, then Communion is a reminder for us along the way about why we are on that journey in the first place. In our reading from Luke we looked at the institution of Communion by Jesus. He starts this practice just hours before He is arrested and crucified, at the Last Supper. Without getting into the nitty gritty details about big special words like transubstantiation, it is important for us to note that we are told to do this in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. It is by Jesus's death and resurrection that we are healed from our sins. It is through His crucifixion that we are able to know God personally. When we take Communion, when we participate in this Holy act, we are to remember what it took for us to become separated from our sins. It took the body and blood of Jesus. This is why Jesus tells us "This is my body, given for you and for many," and "This is my blood, poured out for you and for many." This is why when we take Communion we change our normal Sunday programming and solemnly come before the Lord. It is an important thing to remember Christ's sacrifice, that we are sinners, and that it is through His sacrifice that we are saved.

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Closing Prayer

February Plan: Membership

Feb. 3rd:

Opening hymns

Responsive reading: UMH #747 Psalm 15

Greeting

Blessings/Concerns

Baptism: UMH #33 parts 1-11 (Not all parts will be read, only portions dealing with Baptism)

Communion: UMH #12 "A Service of Word and Table II" (Not reading the portion about the giving of peace or offering)

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 13:21-22

Joshua 3:13-17

Mark 1:9-11

Luke 22:14-20

Sermon: "The Two Sacraments"

Sermon hymn

Offering

Closing hymn

Blessing

Feb. 10th: Gifts/Service

Opening hymns

Responsive Reading: UMH #833 Psalm 112 1-10

Greeting

Blessings/Concerns

Children's Message: How Do I Use My Gifts for God?

Apostle's Creed

Lord's Prayer

Scripture:

Acts 20:28

1st Corinthians 12:21-26

Hebrews 13:17

Sermon: "Gifts and Service as a Member"

Sermon hymn:

Offering

Closing hymn:

Blessing

Feb. 17th: Presence

Opening hymns

Responsive Reading: UMH #841 Psalm 119 1-8

Greeting
Blessings/Concerns
Children's Message: Why Go to Church?
Apostle's Creed
Lord's Prayer
Scripture:
Matthew 18:20
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Hebrews 10:23-25
Sermon: The Purpose of Meeting Together as Church Members"
Sermon hymn:
Offering
Closing hymn:
Blessing

Feb. 24th: Prayer/Membership Sunday
Opening hymns
Responsive Reading: UMH #819 Psalm 99
Greeting
Blessings/Concerns
Reception of New Members: UMH #38 "Reception Into the United Methodist Church" 14-16
Children's Message
Apostle's Creed
Lord's Prayer
Scripture:
Matthew 18:15-17
1st Corinthians 5:15-17
1st John 1:7
Sermon: "Church Members and Prayer"
Sermon hymn:
Offering
Closing hymn:
Blessing