

Sunday, September 8, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS: Faith and works are not direct opposites; both are part of God's vast network of love, with Christians doing works of mercy and piety, without showing any partiality.

PRELUDE — Anneke Toomey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** — Lin

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #432 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)

REFRAIN: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have in you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.
REFRAIN

2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white, neighbors are near and far away.
REFRAIN

3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love, all these are neighbors to us and you. REFRAIN

5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you.
REFRAIN

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Suzanne Gallagher

One: This morning, may God speak to us and help us remember:

Many: The rich and poor have this in common: God is Maker of us all.

One: A good name is to be chosen over riches, and God's favor is better than silver or gold.

Many: The rich and poor have this in common: Jesus is Savior of us all.

One: The poor are rich in faith and are heirs of the kingdom of God.

Many: The rich and poor have this in common: The Holy Spirit empowers us all.

One: Those who are generous are blessed, for they share bread with others.

Many: The rich and poor have this in common: God has called us to serve one another.

One: May we know that our faith should be in God—yes, our faith, in the God of heaven.

Many: The rich and poor have this in common: God has called us to love one another.

One: The rich and poor have this in common:

ALL: Our generous God loves us all without partiality.

Adapted from "Call To Worship" by Valerie Bridgeman Davis, from The Africana Worship Book, Year B (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2007), 98. Used by permission.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

CHILDREN'S STORY — Lin

SPECIAL MUSIC — Praise Band

"Teach Your Children"

SCRIPTURE: James 2:1-9, 14-17 — Suzanne Gallagher

¹ My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors... ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

MESSAGE

"Implicit Bias"

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #695

"O Lord, May Church and Home Combine"

1. O Lord, may church and home combine to teach thy perfect way,
With gentleness and love like thine, that none shall ever stray.

2. Let all unworthy aims depart, imbue us with thy grace;
Within the home let every heart become thy dwelling place.

3. Shine, Light divine; reveal thy face where darkness else might be.
Grant, Love divine, in every place glad fellowship with thee.

4. May steadfast faith and earnest prayer keep sacred vows secure;
Build thou a hallowed dwelling where true joy and peace endure.

OFFERTORY — Anneke

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Suzanne Gallagher

All: Loving Creator, we dedicate these offerings with hearts guided by your wisdom and grace. As we gather on this September Sunday, may our gifts embody the teachings of scripture, spreading honor, kindness, and justice to all people. Use these offerings to uplift those in need, fostering hope and peace in our community. May we live out your wisdom in our actions and generosity. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

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PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #581 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (vs. 1, 2, 4)

1. Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

2. Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;

Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know, and live.

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Anneke

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke
Song Leader— Margaret
Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher

Accomp.—Anneke
Special Music — Praise Band
Children’s Message — Lin Cheek

Offertory—Anneke
Organ — Betsy
Violin — Rae Ann