

Sunday, February 16, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

TODAY'S FOCUS: BLESSINGS. Jesus gives us a list of what he prizes in humanity and its rewards, along with a list of woes for those who are getting it wrong. Which list fits us best? Should we be worried when everything is going our way?

PRELUDE — Scott Anderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

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

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #60 “I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath” (vs, 1, 2)

1. I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne’er be past, while life, and thought, and being last,
Or immortality endures.

2. Happy are they whose hopes rely on Israel’s God who made the sky
and earth and seas, with all their train;
whose truth forever stands secure, who saves th’oppressed and feeds the poor,
for none shall find God’s promise vain.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Diana Murray

One: People of God, we gather this morning to hear the Word and be healed of what ails us.

Many: We reach out to touch Jesus and trust in his healing power.

One: Children of God, we gather to receive your blessing for those who are poor, hungry,
sorrow-filled and reviled.

Many: We await our healing and look forward to the day when we leap for joy.

One: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we join all other Christians around the world, who are also
gathered this morning to praise the Lord.

All: Here in this place, we reach out for the love of Jesus — and we are healed!

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S STORY — Sharon Goldade**SPECIAL MUSIC** — ??**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 6:17-26 — Diana Murray

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

MESSAGE

"Too Blessed to Be Stressed"

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

TFWS #2155 "Blest Are They" (all 5 verses)

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

REFRAIN: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. **REFRAIN**

3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God! **REFRAIN**

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. **REFRAIN**

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom. Shine for all to see. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Anneke Toomey

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Diana Murray

All: God of all people, Jesus reminded us, as he preached the Sermon on the Plain, how much you love the poor, the meek, the heartbroken, and the despised. Jesus holds us accountable for the times we have clung tightly to money and possessions, seeking the comforts, status, and control they seem to provide. As we place our simple gifts on your altar this morning, may your love soak into us in a way that loosens our grip on the things of this world that do not last and increases our desire for your love and redeeming grace, which endure eternally. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from "Offering Prayer" by Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, Director of Stewardship, Discipleship Ministries, from www.umcdiscipleship.org. Used by permission.

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 #577 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour (of this hour),
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days (of these days),
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal (kingdom's goal),
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore (we adore),
serving thee whom we adore.

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Scott Anderson

Prelude/Postlude—Scott
Song Leader— Scott
Liturgist — Diana Murray

Accomp.—Anneke
Special Music — ??
Children’s Message— Sharon

Offertory—Anneke
Organ — Betsy
Violin — Rae Ann