

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am

Word for the Week: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Proverbs 15:1 (NRSV)

Announcements:

Slide 1

Good Morning! Thank you for joining us in worship today! Here are a few things to be aware of:

- The **Trustees** meet Tuesday, Sept 8th at 6pm.
- Final call for contributions to this year's **Annual Conference Special Offerings:** the John Kofi Asmah School's Maintenance Fund in Liberia; Our Conference, Our Kids; the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College and the Bishop's Ordinand Trip. Designate your gift and put it in the offering plate, we'll send it to the conference.
- Eden Seminary offers, **The Psalms for Justice-Seekers and Peacemakers**, a three-night, online course beginning Sept 9th. Express your interest to Pastor Kevin.
- **Worship continues** to be offered **in-person and online**; please make choices that you are comfortable with regarding the COVID-19 virus.
 - Here's this week's **in-home worship** package for those who are unable to join us.
 - Click on this link to join via **Zoom**, or copy and paste it in your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86233774377?pwd=cmF5NkRBVmNqdEEveTBoRTRZbmppdz09>
 - Enter the following as prompted: **Meeting ID:** 862 3377 4377 **Password:** 029381
 - Or join **by phone** at (312) 626-6799 (Chicago), using the same info (charges may apply).
 - **Youtube Live** is another option - worship without using Zoom!
 - Go to the linked page, wait for a "Live Now" video - click on it and away you go! Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCleukD6raE5lms732qpdDUA>
- **Share these links** with your family and friends! **Visit us on the web & FaceBook.**
- Please **contact Pastor Kevin** at (217) 692-2543 if you need help getting connected.
- Please Chat, text, email, or call to send us your prayer requests, to let us know who is worshiping with you, and to **report problems** during the service.

Prelude

Pianist, Slide 2

Bell Ringer

Slide 3

Greeting **Pastor, Slide 4**

Good Morning Blue Mound! Welcome to the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost! We will celebrate Communion this morning – so if you did not pick up the elements on your way in, please make your way back one at a time to pick them up for later in our service. Those at home may use bread and wine (as you define them) from your pantry.

*** Collect Prayer** **Pastor, Slide 5**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** **“I Love to Tell the Story”** **UMH 156, Slides 6-8**

L: Please remain standing and turn to page 842 in your hymnal for this morning’s Call to Worship. Psalm 119:33-40.

*** Call to Worship:** **Psalm 119:33-40 (NRSV)** **Liturgist, Slide 9-10**

Liturgist: ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

All: ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Liturgist: ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

All: ³⁶ Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to gain.

Liturgist: ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in your ways.

All: ³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Liturgist: ³⁹ Turn away the reproach which I dread; for your ordinances are good.

All: ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

*** Gloria Patri:** **Pianist, Slide 11**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

L: Please be seated and turn to page 117 of your hymnal for our Hymn of Praise

Hymn of Praise **“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” v1,3-4,6** **UMH117, Slides 12-13**

Pastoral Reading **Exodus 12:1-14** **Liturgist, Slide 14**

Liturgist: This morning we’ll read from Exodus 12:1-14, hearing the story of the first Passover. We’ll read from the NRSV.

Pastor: The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

Liturgist: ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Pastor: ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

Liturgist: ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

Pastor: ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Liturgist: ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

Pastor: ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

Liturgist: ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

Pastor: ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Liturgist: ¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Pastor: The story of God's people; All: thanks be to God. Amen.

L: Please rise as able and join your voice in affirming our faith through the words of:

***Affirmation of Faith:**

Apostles' Creed

Liturgist, Slide 15-16

Liturgist: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor, Slide 17

Pastor: *You may stand if you'd like, but please stay in your seats.* In this time of peace, I offer the words of Psalm 29:11, "May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!" Peace be with you!

All: And also with you.

Moment of Insight

"Let's Talk" Matthew 18:15-20

Pastor, Slide 18

When I first preached this scripture here, three years ago, I mentioned how I was kicked out of my own praise band, and how I held a grudge for over a year. In fact, I mentioned that I was a Grand Master Champion grudge holder! I also mentioned that also served as the capstone to a period of a couple years where I felt like every relationship I had, from friends and family to supervisors and co-workers, and now to my church, had gone wrong. It was a time when I was being made to realize that my temper, my anger, my pride, and my ability to hold a grudge were not useful tools in my future. It wasn't long after this that I went into ministry, with a new set of tools.

In last week's sermon we talked about how Paul provides his churches with lists of tools, and divides them into inside and outside responsibilities. We also talked about how one of the problems we have being Christians in the world today is a tendency to do inside work outside and to do outside work on the inside. Well today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew is definitely an inside job.

Jesus lets us know that right away, saying, "If another member of the church sins against you...". He continues on, providing instructions on how to resolve the situation, first with a one on one conversation, followed by a conversation, or trial, perhaps, held within the confines of the church. In doing so, Jesus is referring back to a Jewish tradition found in Deuteronomy 9:15.

Regardless of how old the tradition is, there is no better way to solve an issue between two people bonded in Christian love (which is what it means to be in Christian Community with one another) is direct conversation between the parties involved. It cuts down on gossip and division. But when that doesn't work, who better to help solve the dispute than those who lead the community. The whole idea is to preserve the unity in community.

The bottom line is that when we come together to live in Christian Community, we can no longer think in individual terms. We can no longer hold those "me against the world" grudges. In fact, we've got to give up those grudge matches all together. Truly living in community – Christian or secular - means removing the barriers that stand between us; not ignoring them. Grace and forgiveness are not about ignoring, but in God's love working through them, so that we can thrive in that love. That is the promise, that is the reward, of loving our neighbor as ourselves, as we will hear Paul tell the Romans later today, and isn't that what we all want?

L: This morning I read from:

Scripture Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Slide 19

L: In which Paul continues his conversation on day to day life as a Christian. I'll read from the NRSV:

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Message:

"The Obligation"

Pastor, Slide 19

As I begin this morning's message, please join me in prayer: Lord God, Pour out your Spirit on the words I am about to share, make them your own, find them pleasing, I pray, that they may nourish Your people, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer. Amen

Page 1 - The Issue Today/Intro Story:

Just a quick note before I begin. The name of the restaurant I mentioned last week – the one with over 100 sandwiches on the menu was DB Kaplan's, the original was in Chicago. Funny that name should come to me after 40 years, and yet I can hardly remember where I set my keys down the night before if I don't put them in the same place I always do.

Okay, so now it is time to get down to business. It's funny that I should talk about my season of relational drought during our moment, because as Dorothy and I were talking the other day – we've had a lot of time to talk lately sitting in various hospital rooms – I quickly mentioned where my thoughts were leading me for this week's message. One of the ideas that came up was a story that happened in the thick of that drought.

I loved working for Hoyleton. I loved working with the people I worked with. But our new Development Director turned out to be a dud for a variety of reasons, and he was let go. I was made the acting DD following his departure, but there was a misunderstanding about what that meant between my coworkers and me. I had 20 years in the Air Force behind me, 17 of those years as an NCO. When you put me in charge, I assumed full responsibility. I was in charge. Let's just say my coworkers had never been in the military. Feathers were ruffled.

Into all of this, I threw my hat in the ring when they interviewed people for the new, full-time director, but about halfway through the interview I realized that I really didn't want the job. I sabotaged myself and did not get it. Good for me, or so I thought. Not good because the person hired was one of those very few people I couldn't get along with – oil and water, we could not mix. She was like gasoline on dry brush in the middle of my drought. Worse still, when we needed a new Public Affairs person, she hired a younger duplicate of herself. My first experience with one of those Gen X types, or whatever she was.

Needless to say, we didn't get along. She came in full of vision, seeing herself as an equal to folks who had 20 years' experience on her, telling us what to do rather than asking. I didn't take that well. Well, it all came to a head when I called her on it – our boss, that new DD I didn't get along with, was out having a baby – during a staff meeting. I believe my words were, "Now listen young lady..." Any wonder why I was in a season of relational drought? Them's fighting words!!

The big boss quickly learned of the conversation and called us into his office. He effectively knocked our heads together, gave us \$20 bucks and told us to go out for lunch together and figure it out. If we couldn't, neither one of us needed to come back to work. He reminded us of our obligation to the organization, an obligation that went beyond pride, egos, and personal beliefs. It was a productive lunch meeting, we both went back to work, and I don't know how far her trust needle moved in my favor, but I put my trust in her.

Reminded of our obligations, we did what needed to be done for the good of the community. It was a good lesson to learn, and one I had to learn before I was ready to hear a call into ministry.

To be continued...

Liturgist: Please take a moment to reflect on God's Words, and God's good work in your lives, as you listen to this morning's Offertory.

Offertory

Joys and Concerns (Please forward your joys and concerns to Pastor Kevin using the Zoom Chat function, by phone at 692-2543, or at kdkriesel@gmail.com.)

Pastoral Prayer I will include a prayer from page 429 of the hymnal this morning. **Slide 21**

Holy God, you call us to righteousness and light. Teach us the undivided law of love, that we may love your children even as you do, love you with all our will and strength, and find our freedom in this blessed service, taught to us in word and deed by Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, keep our whole country under your protection. Wipe out sin from this land; lift it up from the depth of sorrow, O Lord, our shining light. Save us from deep grief and misfortune, Lord of all nations. Bless us with your wisdom, so that the poor may not be

oppressed and the rich may not be oppressors. Make this a nation having no ruler except God, a nation having no authority but that of Love.

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world, as with joy we lift up: _____ and with concern: _____,

New: Elaine's Great Grand Daughter (had surgery) Shawn Brokaw and his squadron (back to work after COVID Concerns), Tami (not doing well), the Earle Family in their loss, Karen's brother (possible surgery).

Continuing: California Fire Victims; Tropical Storm/Hurricane Victims, the family in Bethany (suffered two losses); Dorothy Damery (Health), Larry Stalter (New Treatment), Rose Damery (New Knee), Storm victims in Iowa and Northern Illinois; Nick Brown (Recovering), Ginny Stephenson (vision), Maurine Severns (Eyes), Betty (not Eckols, Stroke), Justice in our nation; All directly affected by COVID 19; Carol Acree, Diane Elder, Doris Bonn, Tom Vaughn, Vic Oxby, John Holmgren, Don Younker, Bob Perona, Our Government, Local, State, and National Leaders; First Responders, Members of the Military, Our Bishop (Frank Beard), Our District Superintendent (Brad Watkins), The United Methodist Church.

Those Unable to Join us in Worship: Dorothy Damery (Primrose), Doris Bonn (At Home), Martha Sheppard (Imboden Creek Gardens), Gene Grandfield (At Home), Eleanor Moma (At Home).

And now that we have proclaimed our joys and concerns let us go before the Lord in a time of silent prayer.

(Silent Prayer)

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen

Hymn of Preparation: "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee" v1, UMH 623 **Slide 22**

Holy Communion **Slide 23**

And now we come into a time of communion, at a table we can't currently gather around, but we can celebrate together: the Lord's Table. A table that is open to all who confess Jesus as their Savior, no matter where they are.

If you are at home this morning please gather whatever bread and cup you may have available to you. If you are here with us, I hope you picked up the elements at the door – if not, you may go get them if you wish.

And so, if you have a hymnal, please turn to page 8, rather than 12 in your hymnals, or follow the slides, as I begin with the Invitation.

Invitation

Pastor: Christ invites to his table all who love the Lord,
Who earnestly repent of their sin
And seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, wherever we are, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon, Table I, Page 8

Merciful God,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
We have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence

Leader to People.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to Leader.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People and Leader.

Glory to God. Amen.

Prepare the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Slide 24

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The pastor may lower hands.

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are fully of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name! Hosanna in the highest!**

Slide 25

The pastor may raise hands.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always in the power of your Word
and Holy Spirit.

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread, or touch the bread, or lift the bread.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the cup, or touch the cup, or lift the cup.

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The pastor may raise hands.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor may hold hands, palms down, over the bread and cup.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

The pastor may raise hands.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen. And now with the confidence of God's children, let's pray:

LORD'S PRAYER:

Slide 26

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.

And so, please open the cup containing the Bread, which is Christ's body, given for you, and eat.

And now, please open the cup containing the Juice, which is Christ's blood, shed for you, and drink.

(Silent Prayer)

Closing Prayer: Our God and our Deliverer, as you protected the Israelites in their times of trials, brought them out of Egypt and led them through the wilderness, so you have guided and protected us in our time of trials, anxiety, and uncertainty. In our time of communion, we invited you to physically become a part of us, as we remembered the acts of your Son. In our bringing of our offering today, we remember that in the first Passover, it was the act of an offering that identified households your people, protected by you. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for your care for us, in hope for your continued presence, and as a sign of our desire to follow. In our Savior's name, we pray. Amen. (Exodus 12:1-14)

***Hymn of Celebration "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196 Slide 27-30**

Benediction - Closing Hymn - Postlude - Community Time

Slide 31