

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30am

Word for the Week: "You forgave the iniquity of your people, you pardoned all their sin." Psalm 85:2 (NRSV)

Worship Info:

- **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 family and friends! **Visit our Web page & Facebook page!**
- Please **contact Pastor Kevin** at (217) 692-2543 if you need help connecting.

Tech Note: Liturgist Spotlighted and Unmuted/Pastor Muted

Announcements:

Liturgist, Slide 1

- Good Morning! Thank you worshiping for with us today! Here are a few things to be aware of before we get started:
 - Today is Blanket Sunday – hopefully you saw (and filled) the blanket on your way in, if not, please make your donation on the way out!
 - The next Hawk Hangout Board meeting will be on Nov 5th, please consider joining this Board (we need members from this church!).
 - Please submit prayer requests on the bulletin tear offs – it is **hard to hear** them accurately otherwise. You may also **chat, text, email, or call!**

Prelude

Pianist

Tech Note: Spotlight and Unmute Pastor (Yeti), Mute Liturgist

Bell Ringer

Live or? Slide 2

Greeting

Pastor, Slide 3

Good Morning Blue Mound! Welcome to the 21st Sunday after Pentecost! Today is also Reformation Sunday! Dorothy is doing great, and my thanks to all who signed on to deliver meals to us – they have been delicious, and greatly appreciated. I'd also like to thank Pastor Marge for coming back this week, and for the gift of time it represents. Let's begin this morning with our:

*** Collect Prayer (please rise in body or spirit) Pastor, Slide 4**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Tech Note: Spotlight Liturgist.

*** Opening Hymn " Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee ", UMH 89 Slides 5-9**

L: Please remain standing and turn to page 809 in your hymnals for this morning's Call to Worship from Psalm 90, verses 1-6 and 13-17.

Tech Note: Unmute Liturgist, Mute Pastor

*** Call to Worship: Psalm 90, UMH 809 Liturgist, Slide 10**

Liturgist: ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

All: ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Liturgist: ³ You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, O mortal ones!"

All: ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Liturgist: ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning;

All: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Liturgist: ¹³ Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

All: ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Liturgist: ¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

All: ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Liturgist: ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands;

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands!

*** 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 514 of your hymnal for our Hymn of Praise

Hymn of Praise " Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus ", UMH 514 Slides 12-13

Tech Note: Spotlight "Congregation", Mute Liturgist, Unmute Pastor

Pastoral Reading Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Pastor/Liturgist, Slide 14

Liturgist: This morning we read Deuteronomy 34:1-12, in which Moses dies with the Promised Land in sight, we'll read from the NRSV.

Pastor: Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

Liturgist: ⁴ The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

Pastor: ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.

Liturgist: ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.

Pastor: ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Liturgist: ⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Pastor: ¹⁰ **Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.**

Liturgist: ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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.

Tech Note: Spotlight Pastor's Video.

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 words from 2 John 1:3, "Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and love." Peace to you all.

All: Peace to you as well.

Moment of Insight "Those Commandments," Matthew 22:34-46 **Pastor, Slide 18**

It seems we have a love/hate relationship with rules and instructions. Too many rules and instructions and we tend to feel restricted and oppressed. Kind of like now, with all the COVID precautions. Too few rules or instructions and we can feel lost – unsure what to do. Kind of like right now with the COVID precautions. At other times, rules and instructions seem to conflict with each other, they are unclear, leaving us confused, unsure what to do. Like right now with the COVID precautions.

Through the Bible we know that such confusion is not confined to our times. When God created humans there was one simple rule, don't eat from the tree. We did. And then, for a period of time God said follow me and you'll be fine, but we couldn't. We demanded earthly rules and earthly leaders to define and enforce the rules. Moses' 10 Commandments quickly filled out to over 613. Detailed rules, intricate rules. Rules that were hard to follow, and so people didn't, and people suffered, until someone said "hey, let's follow the rules" and they did for a while, and then slacked off again, and they suffered again. So went the Old Testament, until the prophets went silent.

And then, through the New Testament we learned that there were some folks who took great pride in following the rules, all of the rules, to the greatest extent possible. They got good at it, so good that following the rules became more important than **why** they were following the rules, or who they were following them for. They weren't bad people, just distracted, and perhaps a bit misguided. These are the people Jesus encounters during this week's Gospel lesson from Mathew 22:34-46, the Pharisees.

We know the question they ask, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" (v36, NRVS). And we know the answer Jesus gives, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ...³⁹ And ... 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Two lines of instruction, at once very simple **and** impossibly difficult: they tell us **what** to do, but not **how** to do.

Perhaps that is why the Pharisees focused on the other 611 commandments – they knew how to do those things, they were easier to commit to, easier to accomplish. But those commandments, the commandments to love, as clear as they are, are the real challenge. Living a Christ-like life isn't a matter of following a set of prescribed steps, it means staying focused on the why - God - while figuring out the how. Yes, it can be confusing and frustrating, but that is why we gather together as we do in these communities called churches: to learn from Christ's example, to share our own experiences, to compare notes and figure things out along the way: to support one another as we pursue those commandments, yeah, those two. Amen.

Blanket Sunday Offering: This morning we have the opportunity to help those who find themselves in challenging times. Through our Blanket Sunday offering, we offer the gift of warmth and hope to those who find themselves in emergency shelters, homeless shelters and refugee camps and shelters. Our gifts will provide a tangible reminder that they are not alone – that someone cares, that someone believes in their humanity. Please give generously as God leads you.

Tech Note: Spotlight Liturgist's Video, Unmute Liturgist, Mute Pastor.

Scripture Reading **Pastor Overlot** **Slide 19**

Tech Note: Spotlight Pastor's Video, Unmute Pastor, Mute Liturgist.

Pastor: Stop Screen Share, Switch to local mic.

Message: **"To be More Like Jesus"** **Pastor, Slide 19**

Pastor: Start Screen Share, Switch to Yeti Mic.

Stewardship Moment: Please continue to support our mission by mailing your tithes and offerings to the church (PO Box 375, Blue Mound, IL 62513). Thank you.

Offertory **Slide 20**

Doxology/Offertory Prayer: **Slide 21**

Lord of all we see and all that we cannot see: Give us this day a glimpse of the complexities of the world and the simplicity of living our lives centered in you; loving you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbors well. Bless the gifts we offer you; but in our giving, help us focus on these other more basic gifts. May the love we show you and others be a testimony of whom we follow and who is worthy of our devotion. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen. (Matthew 22:34-46)

Joys and Concerns: **Slide 22**

(Please forward joys and concerns to Pastor via Zoom Chat function, by phone at 692-2543, or at kdkriesel@gmail.com.)

Prayer Hymn: "There's Something About that Name" UMH 171 **Slide 23-24**

Pastoral Prayer **Slide 25**

Almighty God, your Son has shown us how to love one another. May our love for you overflow into joyous service and be a healing witness to our neighbors. Clear our

doubtful minds, help us to keep what is simple, simple, that we may live in the freedom you created us to enjoy. Not freedom from rules and laws, but freedom to love above all.

Lord God, by our love let others see that we bring Your truth, not deceit and trickery. Let them see our gentleness, our humility. Let them see You in and through our lives. Transform us into portals of Your justice, love and peace. Transform our leaders into vessels of those things and guide them in the simple complexity of your ways.

God of mercy and healing, you who know our cries. You hear us at our best and our worst. You hear us when we pray for others, celebrating the victories of our lives, and sharing our sorrows. Hear us now, as with joy we lift up: _____ and with concern: _____,

Joys:

Concerns:

Continuing: Dorothy Kriesel (Recovery after Surgery), Brian Damery (Heart Issues), John Holmgren (Heart Issues), Wild Fire Victims; Tropical Storm/Hurricane Victims, Dorothy Damery (Health), Rose Damery (New Knee); Maurine Severns (Eyes), Justice in our nation; All affected by COVID 19; Carol Acree, Diane Elder, Doris Bonn, Tom Vaughn, Vic Oxby, 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).

As we have proclaimed our joys and concerns let us now take to the Lord those things, which we wish to keep between God and ourselves in a time of silent prayer.

(Silent Prayer)

Make us instruments of your peace, O Lord, so that where there is hatred, we can love, and where there is injury we can pardon. In the peace of your Son, Jesus the Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER:

Slide 25

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.

***Hymn of Commitment "Take My Life and Let It Be, Consecrated", UMH 399 Slide 26-28**

Benediction - Closing Hymn - Postlude - Community Time

Slide 29