

You have made us for
Yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts will
remain restless
until they rest in You.
-Saint Augustine



A Sermon Series on Joy

JOY IN OUR PURPOSE

September 25, 2022



WELCOME

PRELUDE *In Thee is Gladness*
Gastoldi/Leavitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our safety and our home.

You are our God; all good things come from You alone.

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance, and surrounds us with abundance.

**You are our Savior, Jesus;
our lives are in your hands.**

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are the Holy Spirit, the wind beneath our wings; we will not be shaken.

Let's worship God together!

HYMN *God is Here* no. 660

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God who knows us in our inner most being invites us to open our hearts and be honest in our conversations as we come to this time of prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we confess we have done little to advance your kingdom in this world. We have become bogged down with aggravations of this life. We have allowed ourselves to be sidetracked with dissention instead of fostering unity among your people. We have focused on past pains which have embittered us instead of moving forward in establishing love as the law of life. Free us, we pray, from that which binds us. Enable us to be a people renewed and empowered. We know that with you all things are possible and so we ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus the Christ, who came to show us that your kingdom is near.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

There is no greater joy in God's heart than this moment right now! It is with the greatest joy that God grants us mercy and makes us whole once again.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and blessed. With great joy we are made alive! Amen.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Psalm 16:1-11

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

MUSIC *God Be Merciful unto Us and Bless Us*
Chancel Choir Philip Stopford
*God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
and show us the light of his countenance,
and be merciful unto us;
that thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.
Let the people praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the people praise thee.*

O let the nations rejoice,
let the nations rejoice and be glad;
for thou shalt judge, shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.
Let the people praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase;
and God, even our own God,
shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us;
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.
Amen. Psalm 67

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:44-50

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

HYMN To Know You More TFWS no. 2161

MESSAGE Joy In Our Purpose

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

(You may give your offering by text, at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office.)

John Wesley encourages us to "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." When you give your offering each week, it gets multiplied by the gifts of 32,000 churches worldwide. It supports the infrastructure of UMCOR (U.M. Committee on Relief) so that what we give directly to UMCOR every dollar goes towards the cause being addressed. Our connection matters. Your gifts make a huge difference. Thank you for loving God and your neighbor through your tithes and offerings.

OFFERING VIDEO UMCOR

OFFERING RESPONSE no. 189, vs. 4

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of all nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Open our eyes to see the beauty around us:
Then, open them more to see the ever-present poverty.

Open our ears to hear the laughter of our children: Then, open them more to hear the cries of the needy.

Open our hearts to receive the joy of life: Then, open them more to share the pain of another.

Open our hands to shares the gifts we have: Then, open them more to grasp your hand and to reach out to others with Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN *The Gift of Love* no. 408

BENEDICTION

We leave this place not as people who have all the answers. We leave this place not as people who are holier than others.

We leave this place as people who have been shown a grace, a calling and a Savior who has changed our lives forever. We're filled with a joy that's too great to be kept to ourselves.

Go forth as God's people. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Messiter/Ritter

Bold text indicates congregational response.

The flowers on the Lord's Table are presented to the glory of God:

in loving memory of their son, Michael, whose birthday was Sept. 22, by Dianne and Tom Walsh; and in honor of her children by Carol Gress.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks
Liturgists: Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley, Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Karen Rotz
Message for Growing Christians: Rev. Allen Keller
Chancel Choir Director: Mike Muzzo
Organist: Steve Campitelli
Acolyte: Mackenzie Crawford
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, Holly & Todd Grimm, Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, David Maxwell, Brad Rush, Zeke Smith, Cory Smith (leader)

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism (modern version)

(The purpose of the Shorter Catechism is to educate children and others "of weaker capacity" (according to a preface written by the Church of Scotland) in the Reformed faith. It is based on the Larger Catechism, which was intended for use by ministers as they taught the faith to their congregations in preaching.)

Q. 1. What is the main purpose of mankind?

A. Mankind's main purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

What We Were Created To Do

-The Great Commandment: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself." Matthew 22:37-39 CEB

-The Great Commission: "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." Matthew 28:18-20 CEB

-The Great Requirement: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 NRSV

Thoughts About Purpose

- *Anything and everything you have experienced has been purposeful; it has brought you to where you are now.* Iyanla Vanzant.

- *The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.* Albert Schweitzer.

- *I am thankful for a new day, to live, to love, to talk, to smile, to laugh to walk, to dream, to share, to write, to hope, to pray, to praise God and to fulfill my purpose of life.* Lailah Gifty Akita.

- *When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way.* Wayne Dyer.

- *To forget one's purpose is the commonest form of stupidity.* Friedrich Nietzsche.

- *Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd.* Rumi.

- *Miracles await you when you begin to serve people.* Sunday Adelaja.

GOD'S 5 PURPOSES FOR YOU



1. Give God
Pleasure



2. Be a Member
of God's Family



3. Become
Christ-Like



4. Fulfill your
Ministry



5. Fulfill your
Mission