**Worship Plan for Sunday, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2018**

**WELCOME & SHARING CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** God has given us the dawning of a new day following a night of rest.

**Response:** The heavens keep telling the wonders of God. The skies declare what God has done.

**Leader:** Welcome to worship in God’s new day.

**Response:** The heavens keep telling the wonders of God. The skies declare what God has done.

**Leader:** God’s law is perfect; it gives us new life. God’s teachings last forever, and give wisdom.

**Response:** The heavens keep telling the wonders of God. The skies declare what God has done.

**Leader:** God’s instruction is right; it makes our hearts glad. God’s commands shine brightly and they give us light.

**Response:** Let our words and our thoughts be pleasing to you this day, O God, our Mighty Rock and our Protector.

**Leader:** Come, let us worship God

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)**

**COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**

**PASTOR:** Jesus gave a variety of gifts to his followers to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Today we recognize and bless those who have been called to the ministry of leading, teaching, and guiding.

God has called you to be leaders and teachers. We praise God for calling you to this service of Christian education and for the gifts and guidance God provides for ministry.

**CHILDREN:** We need leaders and teachers who will welcome us and love us

as Jesus loved the children.

We need leaders and teachers who will walk with us and show us

how to live God's Story every day.

Will you welcome us, love us, and show us how to live the story every day?

**TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS:** In response to God's love and call, we promise to welcome you,

to love you, to walk with you, to wonder with you, and to model for you what it means

to live in faith every day.

We commit ourselves to lead you and to learn from you, our children.

**CONGREGATION: We have heard your promises and we commit ourselves to support you**

**through our prayers, our participation in education, worship, and service,   
and our friendship and love.**

**PASTOR:** Leaders and teachers, may your love, commitment, skills, and modeling   
nurture our faith, strengthen our friendships, increase our faithful witness and service,   
and help us to live and grow in faith every day.

**ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM** From all that Dwell Below the Skies

*(The reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**THE LESSON**:  James 2:1-10, 14-17

A reading from James.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2For 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, 3and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” 4have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5Listen, 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? 6But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 9But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16and 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? 17So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Today’s Gospel is read by the lay assistant)*

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

24From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 28But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” 29Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” 30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” 35And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**LIVING THE STORY VIDEO #1**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True (ELW 675, vs. 1, 2, 5)*

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** A Story For All People (vs 4)

**LIVING THE STORY VIDEO #2**

**THE PRAYERS**

Pastor:

God who calls us into community,

Enable this church to do your will.

Lay Assistant:

Make it outward looking rather than inward looking

that it may care deeply for the issues of the world.

Today we especially pray for *(situations of concern in the world)*

God, as we rejoice in the community we find with people here,

we pray for the wider community and neighborhoods we live in:

for teachers and children in our schools as they start a new year;

and for neighbors and friends we are concerned about *especially….*

Mary Keefe, Suzanne Stankiewicz, Cassie Wolff, Marlene Cramer,   
Ray & Dawn Boleyn, Flo Davis, Ernie & Mary Balint, Irma Davis, Judy Toth,   
Ruth Burke, Doris Johanson, Maryn Podoll, Dora Ganzhorn, Katrina Clifford,   
Carol Koval, the Gerhart family

and our homebound... Bob Brindle and Ruth Ungar.

And now, aloud or in silence, we offer the names of others who are in need of prayer (silence)….

Pastor:

We ask all these things in the assurance that you hear and answer our prayers.

**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

O God of justice and love,

we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and bring all the world to your feast.

For, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,   
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal;   
and among your people throughout the world;   
even as we pray in the words of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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 and ever.   
Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

**LIVING THE STORY VIDEO #3**

**Blessing**

God sends us into the world

to accept the cost, and to discover the joy,

of discipleship and commitment to Christ.

Go forth, carrying with you the peace of Christ,

the love of God, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**Sending Song** *I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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