

**Worship Plan - Church Year A**  
**2022-2023**



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20) - 9/24/2023

**SERIES THEME**

***TELL US A STORY***

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus! Our worship follows this path:

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – A Story of Perplexing Generosity  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – A Story of Spiritual Insincerity  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – A Story of Reckless Patience  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – A Story of Insane Rejection

**THEME OF THE DAY**

***A STORY OF PERPLEXING GENEROSITY***

Give a single bag of M&Ms to two four-year-olds and tell them to share. You will witness counting done with accountant-like precision. Each child will get an equal amount of candy because that is fair. Human beings have an incredibly strong sense of fairness. That is why it can be so perplexing when we see how God dispenses blessing and grace. We see people who mock God who are more prosperous than believers. We see people who convert on their deathbed, and Scripture tells us they obtain the same salvation as someone who has been Christian all his life. How is that fair?

Through a simple story, Jesus teaches us a profound truth. We need to stop expecting God to be fair. God is not fair. He does not give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace. No, God is not fair. He is breathtakingly generous.

**FIRST READING**

Jonah 3:10-4:11 – Jonah is perplexed by the generous forgiveness God showed to the people of Nineveh.

**SECOND READING**

Romans 9:6-16 – God is perplexingly generous. He shows mercy and grace to those he chooses, regardless of any merit or worth.

**GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 20:1-16 – Jesus tells us a story of God's perplexing generosity.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 1

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

577 - Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

or

536 - Jesus, Ever-Abiding Friend

### **Psalm of the Day:**

115

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 1 or additional settings

### **Hymn of the Day:**

572 - Not What My Hands Have Done

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*\*558 Salvation unto Us Has Come

### **Closing Hymn:**

582:1,4 - Not unto Us

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

536 - Jesus-Ever-Abiding Friend

577 - Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

\*\*For convenience sake, this longer Hymn of the Day has been optionally moved to the distribution hymn

536 could prob get by without an introduction

577 - needs introduction, and care taken in helping congregation follow the music path

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

2022-2023



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21) - 10/1/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***TELL US A STORY***

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***A STORY OF SPIRITUAL INSINCERITY***

You have maybe heard the accusation or perhaps even made it yourself: “He’s so fake!” That charge claims someone’s friendliness or kindness is a sham. Such insincerity bothers us. We would generally rather someone be honest about how they feel about us than be fake.

Through a story Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn’t want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. He sees right through that. God’s desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

### **FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 – The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.

### **SECOND READING**

Philippians 2:1-11 – Moved by Christ’s love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the selflessness and humility of Jesus.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 21:23-32 – Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Morning Prayer or Morning Prayer (alt)  
(Sat) Evening Prayer or Evening Prayer (alt)

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

Morning - 779 - I Sing as I Arise Today  
(Sat) Evening - 789 - All Praise to Thee, My God This Night

### **Psalm of the Day:**

25

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Additional setting (if used)

### **Hymn of the Day:**

547 At the Name of Jesus

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

Morning - Te Deum  
Evening - Magnificat (p. 218)

or

956 - Holy Is your Name

or

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord (SBO)

### **Closing Hymn:**

Morning - 365 - Lord, You Were Rich beyond All Splendor

or

496:1,5,6 - Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Evening - 783 - Abide with Me

or

793 - Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

Magnificat p. 218 - cong can sing refrain, cantor or presiding minister verses

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

# Worship Plan - Church Year A

## 2022-2023



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22) - 10/8/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### **TELL US A STORY**

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### **A STORY OF RECKLESS PATIENCE**

Patience is a virtue. But can too much patience be a vice? If you are too patient, waiting to see if that pain in your stomach goes away with time, you might make a problem worse. If you are too patient with an incompetent employee, you will lose productivity before the inevitable—his firing—occurs anyway. Too much patience would seem not to be a virtue, but reckless behavior.

Yet that is exactly what God demonstrates to a rebellious human race—reckless patience. Through a story Jesus teaches exactly what God's patience means for us.

*Note to the preacher: "Reckless" can have negative connotations. Common synonyms are: negligent, thoughtless, careless, imprudent. Those concepts may come to mind first. However, other synonyms for "reckless" are: bold, courageous, resolute, valiant. That is what is meant here. You see it in the owner of the vineyard. The tenants either abused or killed what seems to be seven or more servants. Who would respond to that by now sending his son? A father who is reckless with his patience.*

*This provides the preacher an opportunity to contrast the parable with reality. In the parable, one could make the case that the father was reckless in the sense of imprudent. These tenants are pure evil. Why would he think they would treat his son any differently than his servants? But God the Father knew exactly what would happen when he sent his Son. He knew Jesus would be worse than stoned to death. For the Father to send the Son and for the Son to go: that demonstrated a recklessness in the sense of courageous or resolute. There was courage needed by both. And that courage was there, because both were perfectly resolute in their desire to save tenants like us.*

#### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 5:1-7 – The LORD Almighty pictures his patient love for Israel as an owner of a vineyard patiently waiting for a good crop of fruit.

#### **SECOND READING**

Philippians 3:12-21 – Through Christ we have already attained the kingdom of heaven. God patiently waits for us to respond to his grace by living drastically different lives than the people of this world.

#### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 21:33-43 – Jesus tells us a story of God's reckless patience.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 1

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

Psalm 118F - I Will Not Die But Live

or

920 - Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

### **Psalm of the Day:**

80

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 1 or additional settings

### **Hymn of the Day:**

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*676 - Take and Eat

### **Closing Hymn:**

932 - Sent Forth by God's Blessing

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

## Worship Plan - Church Year A 2022-2023



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23) - 10/15/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***TELL US A STORY***

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***A STORY OF INSANE REJECTION***

There are invitations we might be tempted to reject: an invitation to an event you are not interested in, an invitation to a party that takes place at the same time as something else you want to do. There are other invitations which people would say you've lost your mind to reject: an invitation to go on a free tropical vacation, an invitation to go backstage and meet your favorite musical group, an invitation to the Super Bowl. We get so many invitations. Some we accept; others we reject.

Where does God's invitation to participate in his heavenly banquet rank? Scripture often pictures eternal life as a joyful party, full of friends and family, laughter, and the finest foods. Through a story Jesus teaches us how insane it would be to reject God's gracious invitation to that eternal celebration. More, Jesus tells us what we need to get into that best of all banquets.

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 25:6-9 – The prophet Isaiah describes the heavenly banquet, where death and tears will be no more. How does one get in? Through faith in God and his salvation.

### **SECOND READING**

Romans 1:16-17 – We are saved through faith alone. May we never reject this gospel truth.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 22:1-14 – Jesus tells a story of those who insanely rejected a king's gracious invitation.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

The Service (hymn tune canticles)

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

902 - Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word

### **Psalm of the Day:**

84

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Additional Settings in Service Builder

### **Hymn of the Day:**

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

568 - His Robes for Mine

or

Psalm 67F

### **Closing Hymn:**

884 - Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

568 - His Robes for Mine

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

568 should be introduced

884 also closing hymn at Pent 2

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**