



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." — John 10:10b

A WONDER - FULL LIFE WORSHIP SERIES

Looking at Money and Meaning

Week Three: "Looking Out"

**First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint
October 24, 2021**

Spiritual practice feeds that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love and joy. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. In this four week series, we will "look" squarely in the face of our money issues in compassionate ways that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a wonderful life.

GATHERING: COMPASSION

As we open our eyes and come out of any avoidance we have regarding our feelings about money, we light a candle and ask God to be with us on this journey. We pray for fresh perspectives that can shift any “dis-ease” that holds us back from a courageous vision about our money paths. We have compassion for ourselves and each other because the systems of money we live in are not easy to navigate.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering In Christ's Light

Leader: To be part of the early Christian movement was to be counter-cultural— . . .

This week, we will explore how money, when coupled with alignment of values and vision for a more just world, could result in the kind of generosity that gives life not only to the movement, but to the giver.

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility;
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.

**Open us to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us
for a “wonder-full” life.**

Opening Hymn/Song: “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” (ELW 691, v 1 & 3)



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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WORD: CURIOSITY

We become curious—full of “wonder-ing”—further transforming our tendencies of avoiding money issues into a desire to learn more, know more, about the systems of money and our own relationship to it. We explore what our faith story invites us to do about the systems of money in which we find ourselves.

Reader: This week we ask if the outer manifestations of our money practices align with our courageous vision. ...

May we prepare our hearts for the scripture this day:

***Gospel Acclamation: “A Wonder Full Life Song”**

① Easy, flowing ♩ = 92



To be full of love, to be full of grace,
Giv-ing o - thers love, giv-ing o - thers grace,

②



to be full of peace is a won-der full life.
giv-ing o - thers peace is a won-der full life.

Music & Lyrics: Marcia McFee
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arr. Jason Shelton

Reading: from the Letter to Timothy: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (CEB):

Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.

This is a Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - A Word for All Ages

The Word in Music

Song of the Day: *“We Are Called”* (ELW 720 v 1 & 2)

**1 Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**2 Come! O-pen your heart!
Show your .. mer-cy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hope -less
so ha-tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.**

Refrain

RESPONDING: CREATIVITY

This part of the service helps us to “wonder” in a different way. We invite a state of awe at the abundance of our lives by noticing the “rich” beauty around us, the presence of “treasured” people, and new and unexpected “gems” that cross our paths. We commit to engage our creativity to multiply good in the world.

Prayers of Intercession (The Wonder of It All):

Let us continue our prayers:

Creating God,
for the awesome wonders of creation, the abundant feast of family and friends,
the plentiful riches of your presence among us, We give thanks.

We are so grateful, O God, for... [*continue with particular blessings in your community*]

Loving God,
for those times that feel rife with heartbreak, too much stress and too little assurance,
a plethora of pain and not enough possibility, Be with us.

We lift to You, O God... *[continue with particular concerns in your community]*

Gracious God,
for those times when our contributions bring more negativity than positivity,
more resentment than forgiveness, more breaking down than lifting up,
Forgive us.

In this silence we open the books of our hearts and make an accounting...

[silence]

Already we know you have balanced the ledgers through Christ Jesus.
O God, you hold nothing against us. You forgive all debts.
We are so deeply grateful and we commit to creating more good in the world in your
name. **Amen.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, (like waving from your location) and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Offering Witness - *What inspires you to wonder? Where do you see God's abundance overflowing in your life? Through the church?*

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*You may share your offering as you leave today or give online through our
<https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

The offering plates are in the front corners and near the exit doors.

***Doxology**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

***Offering Prayer-**

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

Looking outward, we see your world, your people and the needs not yet met.

We know that this practice of sharing what we have
is what you would have us do.

Draw us ever close to the true living that is possible
when we align with the courageous vision of your realm.

In the name of the one whose vision of love and justice is the meaning of life,
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

SENDING FORTH: COMMITMENT

*Having walked with God in "looking" into our heart's relationship to money,
we commit to take the practices out into the world and our daily lives with renewed
compassion, curiosity and creativity.*

Sending Hymn/Song: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine:* (ELW 774)

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Benediction

Again, the Bailey's blessing from *It's a Wonderful Life*:

“Bread! That this house may never know hunger.
Salt! That life may always have flavor.
And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever.”

Today we have affirmed that “prosperity” comes not with the accumulation of as much stuff as possible, but with the use of what we have accumulated in a way that keeps us “looking out” for others, being mindful of the well-being of others, and that helps fuel the movement of justice on earth.

You have been reminded of these things here in this time together,
Now go in peace. Serve the Lord!,
for it IS “a wonderful life!”

Postlude

Worship Notes

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Worship design and liturgy adapted from Worship Design Studio
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Worship Team:

Piano- Colleen Culwell

Pastors - Lori Morton and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

Office Contact Information: T & Th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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Prayers - Katheryn Braatz, Jack and Darlene Dickman, Kathy Bradetich, Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Dar Cogswell, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Betty Mitchell, George Marker, Chris Ingham; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier.; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

All healthcare workers and facilities trying to offer care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you! To Our Church Family,

Words cannot adequately express what our hearts feel.

We are so grateful for your prayers, cards, kind words, love and support for us and our daughter's family.

In Christian Love,

Fred and Karla Darnell

Rick, Anna and Alyssa Howarth

Reformation Sunday - October 31, 2021 Next Sunday is set aside to commemorate the day Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses to the Whittenburg doors, inviting conversation in the church about current practices impacting people's trust in God's grace through Jesus Christ. You are invited to wear red as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and how it continues to inspire and re-form the church to be reflections of Christ's light and life for the world.

Fellowship: We are temporarily suspending the food and coffee aspect of Fellowship time after the service, until the rate of Covid-19 community transmission decreases for two weeks straight. This includes Holy Communion.

Mini-Revolution: Weekly deeper dive into scripture lessons from Sunday emailed to you for individual, family, and small groups.

Organ Console Committee: The Council appointed this committee in response to an opportunity to acquire a used organ console. Our current console is nearing the end of its life and we have experts in our congregation, who can help reduce the cost of repair. Thank you for your feedback and for your financial pledges in support of this project. The next steps will be to make a recommendation to the Council. Please talk to Jim Carlson, Scott Youngren, Jean Cafferty, Bob Thurston or Jim Payne with feedback, pledges or questions.

Money and Meaning - The worship series, "A Wonder - Full" Life will resume November 14th. In between, we will wonder about the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in the faith with Reformation on Oct. 31 and All Saints on November 7 (see the forms below).

The final small group discussion will be November 11th. Our reflection will be around celebrating the ways God helps us use what God has first given us to bless the world.

Covid - 19 Protocols:

With the increasing rate of infection in the area, we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks inside. North Idaho healthcare systems are in a Crisis Status. Therefore, we are practicing the following protocols for groups gatherings:

- Practice physical distancing: 6' spacing between family/ friend groups while seated or standing inside, unless invited to sit with the other group.
- Communion is temporarily suspended until the community spread declines for two weeks.
- Use Hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entry for all congregants.
- All extended conversations please conduct outside.
- Please respect everyone's choices and desire to be healthy and to feel safe while worshiping together.
- Use our online worship resources and stay home if you have any symptoms (even if you think it is just allergies, coughing, congestion, headache, etc.)
- We are singing a few verses of the hymns. Humming is preferred. If you do sing, please wear a mask.
- The Council has updated the group facility use policies and will have them available for direction this week.

Thank you for your cooperation and care of one another.



All Saints Sunday - November 7, 2021

On this festival Sunday, the church has long set aside this day to remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the faith.

If you are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, from the past 12 months, we would like to remember them during the 9 a.m. Worship Service. Submit their names using this insert on Sundays in October or call the church office by the 31st with correct spelling and pronunciation of their name.

Please include: _____
in the All Saints' Day Remembrance. He/She is the (please indicate: friend, mother, father, etc.) _____ of.

Note aids for pronunciation as well.