



A WONDER - FULL LIFE WORSHIP SERIES

Looking at Money and Meaning

Week Four: “Looking With Gratitude”

**First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint
November 14, 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: In this final week of our series,

This “investment” of ourselves in beloved community increases our constant and enduring hope and gratitude
as we learn how to give and receive God’s grace.

**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: *“Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”*. (ELW 631, 1&3)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n,
to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be
always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee
without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

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: At the heart of our relationship to money is living and giving with gratitude—

Let us prepare our hearts to hear the Word:

***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: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 (CEB):

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

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: *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* (ELW 834 v 1 & 3)

- 1** Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

- 3** To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

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-**

Gracious God,

We look with gratitude upon everything in our lives as a gift from you.

We offer all we can back to you in service to your beloved creation and all peoples in it.

With great thanksgiving we commit to this spiritual journey of stewarding the resources and treasures that come into our care.

Keep us ever mindful of the times when others have shared with us and the difference it made in our lives

so that our giving connects us as human family in ever stronger ways.

In the name of the one who gave it all, even his very life, for love and justice, 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:** “*Jesus Call Us*”. ELW 696 *odd verses*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his
clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me": | 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to
your obedience,
serve and love you best of all. |
| 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol
that would keep us,
saying,
"Christian, love me more." | |

***Benediction**

One more time, we remember George and Mary Bailey's words of hospitality:

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

May you be ever grateful for
the Bread of Life and
the Cup of Love.
And may you always savor the flavor of a life well-seasoned with generosity.

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 - Milt Jacobs, Tammie and Scott Rusho, 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.

Family and Friends of Brian Casey, whose funeral is Monday at the First Presbyterian Church (friend of Pastor Steve and former employee of Luther Park).

All Veterans and their families.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

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

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. Some printed on the usher stands.

Council and Pastor Transition: More details can be found in the November Messenger. Our goal is to create space and time to end our ministry together well. There will be a liturgy of Farewell at the November 28th Sunday Service with time afterward to share our good-byes. Pastor Lori is working with the Council to create other safe means for folks to share their thoughts with Pastor Lori either on Zoom or in smaller groups in light of continuing to care for each other's health. Some have asked what they can do for Pastor Lori. Sending or bringing cards to church with your prayers and thoughts would be welcome. A basket will be placed outside the worship space beginning Sunday, November 14th, since we are aware the Thanksgiving week may take people other places. Pastor Lori will provide contact information in the December Newsletter for her parents' home where she is moving in Colorado.

Giving Tree: Please see the following list for the individuals and families we have the opportunity to help this Christmas. As we did last year, please call Hali Jacobs at 1 208 290 6558 to find out which people are still available to choose. More details are in the mid-November newsletter.

#	Name	age	grade	size	Needs or Wants
A1	Lilo	11	6	14-16	wants clothes like Lilo and Stitch
B2	IronMan	8	3	7 to 8	clothes, favorite IronMan, loves football
C3	Spiderman	6	1	6t to 7t	Clothes favorite spiderman
D4	Hulk	4	preschool	5t to 6t	clothes Hulk or Paw Patrol
E5	Belle	13	7	Med	clothes or size 9 boots
F6	Bambi	12	6	16 to 18	Pjs, camo or hunter slippers, Seahawks stuff
G7	Cinderella	12	6	sz 0/sm	size 0 womens pants, size 4 shoe
H8	Arial	5	preschool	5	clothing with mermaids or unicorns
J9	Mickey	13	6	Mens sm	anything sports
K10	Minnie	10	4	12 to 14 girls	clothes, loves horses or animals
L11	Donald	40	n/a	large	fleece pj pants with tie, sz lg, moccasins mens 10 1/2
M12	Daisy	34	n/a		fleece pj pants Mens xl, soft/warm socks shoe size 11W
N13	Huey	15	9		fleece pj pants with tie, mens med, black tall socks shoe sz mens 10
O14	Alice	31	n/a	n/a	petco or walmart gift card for cat and dog food
P15	Jack	8	2	10 to 12	needs warm jacket, likes red
Q16	Sally	5	kindergar	sz 6	winter fleece shirt
R17	Elsa	11	6	14-16	warm soft blanket, games
S18	Alladin	8	6	7 to 8	remote control vehicles, games
T19	Nemo	6	3	6t to 7t	remote control vehicles
U20	Simba	4	1	5t to 6t	Hulk or Paw Patrol toys, sled
V21	Anna	13	preschool	Med	make up, lotion, Xbox 1 games, jewelry, diary

W22	Mowgli	12	7	16 to 18	pokemon cards, winter beanie hat, Seahawks stuff
X23	Marian	12	6	sz 0/sm	mushroom decorations, anything teal, bracelets, diary, teenage stuff
Y24	Dory	5	Preschool	5	female, art things, likes mermaids and unicorns
Z25	Jiminy	13	6	Mens sm	Taco Bell card, art supplies (he's quite the artist)
A26	Jessie	10	4	12 to 14 girls	Squishmellows stuffed animals, jewelry, especially bracelets
B27	Kristoff	40	n/a		fun unique bbq sauce, jerky, bit ohoney
C28	Tinkerbell	34	n/a		bandanas any color,
D29	Olaf	15	9		drawing pad, books about stars/constellations
E30	Fairy	31	n/a	n/a	gas card to get kids back and forth to school
F31	Buzz	8	2nd grade		Needs gift card for shoes. He has sensory issues about texture, color,etc.; Dogman Chapter books
G32	Bopeep	5	kindergar		LOL color books, art stuff

Covid - 19 Protocols:

With the level of infection in the area, we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks inside. North Idaho healthcare systems continue 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.