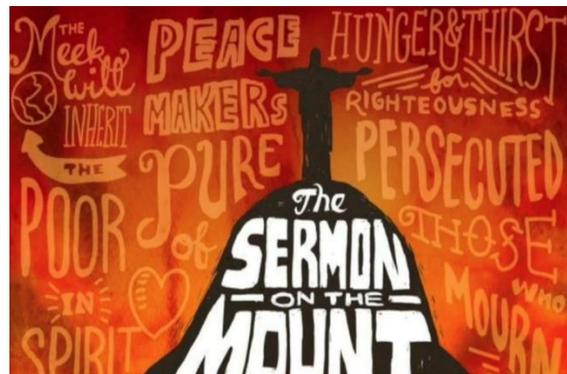




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Worship Service for 7/24/22



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Camp Day in two weeks (August 7). We'll wear our shorts and t-shirts and sing camp songs. There'll be the first skit from our new group, Healthy Drama. Afterward, we'll have a picnic downstairs. We'll provide the meet and drinks and tableware. You bring a side dish or dessert...and friends! There'll also be games after we eat. It'll be fun. So come join us!

--Camp Day Planners meeting on Tuesday at 6??

GREETING one another in the name of Jesus Christ

Opening Hymn-- For the Beauty of the Earth #56 v. 1, 2 5;

Praise Him! Praise Him! #93 v. 1 & 2

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Everette Westmore was in the hospital this week. He's back home now.

Sarah Hensley has been struggling with seizures. She had one this week. She's better. But...a scary time!

CALL TO PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying #305

PRAYER w/ Lord's Prayer

SCRIPTURE AND MESSAGE

Jesus Preaching

For the past few weeks, Jesus has been our Preacher as we've read His Sermon on the Mount. I truly hope you've found this time meaningful. Usually, we look at only portions of that wonderful Sermon and then spend sermon time exploring that small portion. I have found it very interesting...and enlightening... to read and hear this sermon...AS a sermon. I hope you've enjoyed it too.

As we know...the Gospel of Matthew tells of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in great detail. Beginning in Chapter 5, Matthew says that Jesus began His sermon with what we call The Beatitudes: beautiful words of blessing. Jesus then told us that we are to be "salt" and "light" for the world. Nice words. But then Jesus spoke harder lessons. ...that anger toward another ...is the same as murder and lust for a married person is the same as adultery. ...That we are to *love* our enemies. Hard words.

Last week, Jesus taught us how to pray...and that we are to focus our words and our actions on glorifying God...not ourselves. ...That we should not worry about earthly things. Rather Jesus said our attention should be on heavenly treasures.

This week, we will read the last third of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Remember that for Matthew...this was early in Jesus' ministry. His teachings here...the words and images Jesus uses ... will be seen in later parables and actions by Jesus. He will...in real sense...show us what living the Sermon on the Mount looks like...in "real" life. In a life focused on God's Realm.

So...let's hear the concluding portion of our Lord's Sermon on the Mount. **SCRIPTURE PRAYER. ...Matthew 7**

¹ “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ² For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

³ Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

⁶ “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks... receives, and everyone who searches... finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹² “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear

good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will know them by their fruits.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.’

²⁴ “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock.

²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

INVITATION—Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is filled with beautiful words...and hard teachings for any human...trying to do her best in this life. We fail time and time again. ALL of us. And in failing...we feel separated from God. But...remember Jesus was human too. I have no doubt that He too felt the guilt and shame that too often keeps us from coming home to God.

But here’s the thing--Jesus taught “with authority” because of His intimate connection with God. Jesus KNOWS God’s heart. Jesus KNOWS God’s love for us...and God’s desire that we come home to God. Jesus also knows...and taught time and time again...that nothing keeps us from God...but ourselves.

Hymn-- Seek Ye First #354

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY

COMMUNION---I visited a woman this past week who has been unable to attend church for a couple of years. After we visited for a while, we had Holy Communion together. It may have seemed like just two of us there...but we both knew that Jesus Christ was at that Table too. Afterward, I noticed she was in tears. She shared with me that it had been two years since she had had Communion. This meant a lot to her...a LOT. What a precious... and priceless gift this is for all of us ...here and on line...to gather with each other...and with Christ...and Commune together.

Hymn--Break Thou the Bread of Life #321 v 1 & 2

Elder's Blessing for Bread and Cup

Remembering Jesus' words...His Body...His Blood

Partake

Closing Hymn--Let There be Peace on Earth #677

BENEDICTION