



Glendive and Wibaux United Methodist Churches
June 7, 2020

Welcome.

Today is Peace with Justice Sunday. Peacemakers, said John Wesley, “endeavor to calm the stormy spirits ...to quiet their turbulent passions, to soften the minds of contending parties, and, if possible, reconcile them to each other. They ...employ all their strength, all the talents which God has given them, as well as to preserve peace where it is as to restore where it is not.”

Here we are again, rejoicing in our shared experience of worship yet still reeling from two weeks of peaceful, and sometimes not peaceful, protests against centuries of racial injustice in our country. Sometimes my heart and gut are so weary, I just want to crawl onto a beach and allow the sun to soothe my aching soul.

But we must roll out of bed every day, knowing that God is present throughout all of this. Believing that the Holy Spirit is working on people we don't know; and we may disagree with. And faith, that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is more than just Sunday platitudes, but a call to genuinely love one another.

Invocation call to worship Join me in Prayer

Creator God, Saving God, Comforter God,

Speak to us, we are listening,

Reveal to us, we are watching,

Teach us, our hearts are open,

Do it again, God!

Rush into this place, and wherever we are, re-create us, redeem us, Parent us...

In your name, our Three-in-One and One-in-Three God. Amen!

Written by Cynthia Wilson © 2020 Free Indeed Productions <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/open-our-eyes/trinity-sunday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/first-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-liturgical-resources>

Genesis 1:1-2:41

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: “Light!” And light appeared.

God saw that light was good and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day, he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—**Day One.**

God spoke: “Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!”

God made sky.

He separated the water under sky from the water above sky.

And there it was: he named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning—**Day Two.**

God spoke: “Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!”

And there it was.

God named the land Earth.

He named the pooled water Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: “Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, Every sort of fruit-bearing tree.”

And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—**Day Three.**

God spoke: “Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven’s sky!

Separate Day from Night. Mark seasons and days and years, Lights in Heaven’s sky to give light to Earth.”

God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, The smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth And oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—**Day Four.**

God spoke: “Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!

Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!”

God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters, And every kind and species of flying birds.

God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean! Birds, reproduce on Earth!”

It was evening, it was morning—**Day Five.**

God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds.”

And there it was: wild animals of every kind, Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”

God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God’s nature.

He created them male and female. God blessed them: “Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”

Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.”

And there it was.

God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning—**Day Six.**

2 Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail.

By the seventh day God had finished his work.

On the seventh day he rested from all his work.

God blessed the seventh day.

He made it a Holy Day

Because on that day he rested from his work, all the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started, of Heaven and Earth when they were created.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

And that's about it, friends. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure. Greet one another with a holy embrace. All the brothers and sisters here say hello.

Matthew 28:16-20

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

These are the inspired words of God, for the people of God, and the people say, thanks be to God.

Hymn #1 The Prayer

The number eleven is important in that it can symbolize disorder, chaos and judgment. In the Bible, number 11 is used twenty-four times. Coming after 10 (which represents law and responsibility), the number eleven (11) represents the opposite, which is the irresponsibility of breaking God's Law, which brings disorder and judgment. <https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/11.html> May 31, 2020

Who were these broken 11? One commentator wrote:

"Take the first phrase of our text: "Now the eleven disciples." Pause there for a moment. Eleven. Doesn't that word just shout at you from the text? Eleven. For chapter after chapter, gospel after gospel, it was twelve. The twelve did this; the twelve did that; Jesus went with the twelve, chose the twelve. Now, it is eleven — a sign and symbol of brokenness, of betrayal and failure. It is a reminder that on our own, without the sustaining presence of the triune God, we won't make it. We won't fulfill this or any calling, this or any mission.

So, the new normal was 11, the 12th had gone by the wayside and never to return. Even as their numbers changed, there was and is hope. Where did they go, this broken, now eleven? Home, to Galilee. But not in despair, not because there wasn't anything else to do, so they might as well go home. No.... Matthew says they went because they were directed."

Yes, I am weary of having to live into this pandemic. I am weary of seeing folks who apparently have less regard for others than themselves, refuse to wear a mask or physically distance. My soul is exhausted from watching reports of white, mostly men, carrying weapons in public just to intimidate others. And I am tired of living in chaos, even when some of it is my own doing. But I also feel sometimes like to shut it out would be a disgrace and embody my white privilege not to have to know about all the pain and suffering. But if I shut it out am I then complicit in the injustice? Am I allowed to shut it out?

In my weariness, I heard from a dear clergy sister who reminded me, and I want to remind you, “We cannot give what we do not have. So, fill yourself up with rest and renewal. We are called to do the hard things... and WE are protected and safe to do so.

And she continued, “What are we not allowed? To shun kindness. Ignore justice. And walk in arrogance in front of the Lord.” Thank-you Pastor Nema. And rereading our Genesis this morning, even God rested from his work. And those confused and chaotic 11? They went home and after a bit of rest, they went on.

It’s been a tough nearly 4 months to be at home, in home; not in the homes of families and friends. Perhaps to be in homes where it feels there is no rest for the weary. So, I’m suggesting that once we get out of our houses; we go home again, to God, to Jesus, the Son of God, to the Holy Spirit. That we remember the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus was for us. I suggest that we reinvoke the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, to come back home with us. Not that it’s left, but we have shut the doors.

Siblings, the Eternal One has never left and is the same yesterday, today and every day. And this deep belief lifts my tired soul, as I pray it will yours. In the fulness of time, we may never understand or accept what we’ve been going through. And what’s ahead. But we do already know that there is no light without darkness, and no need for solid ground if we occasionally don’t feel like we’re getting in over our heads.

Let’s commit to a shared time of peace and rest for our weary souls. Not just a one-off nap on a Sunday because there’s no football, but intentional rest and listening for the Holy Spirit to guide us and feel the Creator’s presence.

Amen and Selah

This is our first Sunday and our wonderful opportunity to share the sacrament of Holy Communion. I will give you a moment to prepare your own sacraments as I prepare the here in the sanctuary.

Communion Liturgy

Announcements

I encourage our regular worshippers and visitors to continue to make your offering to the church through the post. The work of the church and the needs of the physical church haven't diminished that much in the past few months. We must be ready to resume in-person worship with all the resources we normally would have. And we want to support our local post offices and their employees. They are local business just like your favorite restaurant or store.

On the subject of in-person worship. Neither Glendive nor Wibaux UMC will resume in-person worship until at least mid-July. I know this seems like a far way off. But I am personally not prepared to open the worship spaces until we are completely ready and have approved plans from the District Office on behalf of our Bishop. Furthermore, as a vulnerable person in the CDC, Dawson County Public Health Department and the Mountain Sky Annual Conference definitions, I do not want to come back into communal worship. With the concurrence of your new pastor, Kevin Garman, who himself plans to self-quarantine for a few weeks because of all the exposure during his travels getting here, it only makes sense not to start and stop and change.

Pastor Garman will continue live streaming on the church Facebook page and will reach out to you as safely as possible.

We will end with the Lord's Prayer, but an incredibly special version. I invite you to close your eyes and listen to the Prayer we know by heart, sung in a different way.

Hymn 2 The Lord's Prayer TFWS 2378

Now may the peace, and rest that passes all understanding but that can only be the Holy Spirit's work, be with you now and always.