Third Sunday After Epiphany October 11, 2020

INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, All the Lands! Serve the LORD with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing.

* OPENING HYMN: #454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Your word is a light to my path

People: Light the path when we walk alone through dark alleys, empty parking lots, and deserted streets.

Leader: Lord, You are the giver of life. .

People: Give us life when misery dulls our souls. Give us life when we are persecuted and afflicted.

* Let us pray:

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others; open my ears that I may hear their cries; open my heart so that they need not be without succor; let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1-3

* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS

- #600 Wonderful Words of Life
- #601 Thy Word Is a Lamp

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of grace and glory, we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions, but by our readiness to live boldly by faith. Help us, as individuals and as a congregation, to trust you and follow where you lead, that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Sowing Seeds of Faith" Mrs. Janice Cooper

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #399 Take My Life and Let It Be

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER

Answers to Prayer / Joys Sharing Our Concerns Prayer / Disciple's Prayer

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1st Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3 (CEB)

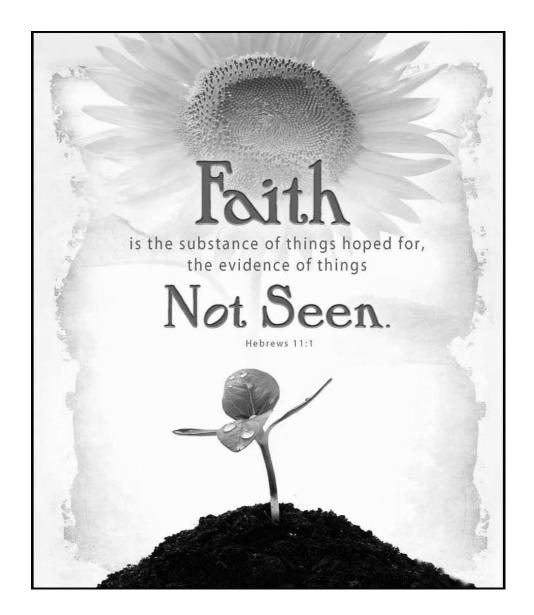
11 Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. ² The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

13 That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

³ He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴ As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸ Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹ Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

¹⁸ "Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹ Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹ Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²² As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³ As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."



LeRoy United Methodist Church

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³ By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.