

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B ..... August 29, 2021

**INVITATION AND GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING WORDS**

We make a thousand decisions every day, but few seem of much consequence. What if we made one decision today that would make all the difference in the world? Choosing, this day, to follow God is that decision. Will we do it? Will we share this wisdom with our children? The choice is ours.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING ..... Matthew 25:1-13**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The God of our ancestors has called us here.

**People: We are witnesses.**

Leader: The wisdom of the ages has called us here.

**People: We are witnesses.**

Leader: The choice to follow God has called us here.

**People: We are witnesses.**

Leader: The Lord of life has called us here.

**People: We are witnesses.**

**\* Let us pray (Congregation):**

**Promise of the ages, we come to you this day to choose the way you set before us. Strengthen our convictions and grant us patience in our waiting, as we watch for signs of your coming kingdom. Help us teach our children your ways, that we may pass on a better world to the generations to come. Amen.**

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

**# 397.....I Need Thee Every Hour**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

**When our courage wears thin, O God, strengthen our resolve to choose you each day. When we grow weary in our waiting, steel us for the long watches of the night- for we long to be found ready when you appear in your glory. Fill our lamps with your grace, that we might share your light with our children and with the generations that follow. Amen**

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: # 354 ..... I Surrender All**

**Introduction to the Word**

Listening for the word of God keeps our lamps lit and our hearts ready.

Listen ... hear ... receive ... choose to let God in.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING: ..... Joshua 24:15**

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD MADE FLESH: **"Making a bold Commitment"**

**\* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 157 .....Jesus Shall Reign (vs 1 & 5)**

**CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns`**

Let us pray: **The Lord's Prayer**

**\* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 ..... O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

**\* CLOSING HYMN: # 396..... O Jesus, I Have Promised (vs 1)**

**\* DISMISSAL BLESSING**

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1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV)

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

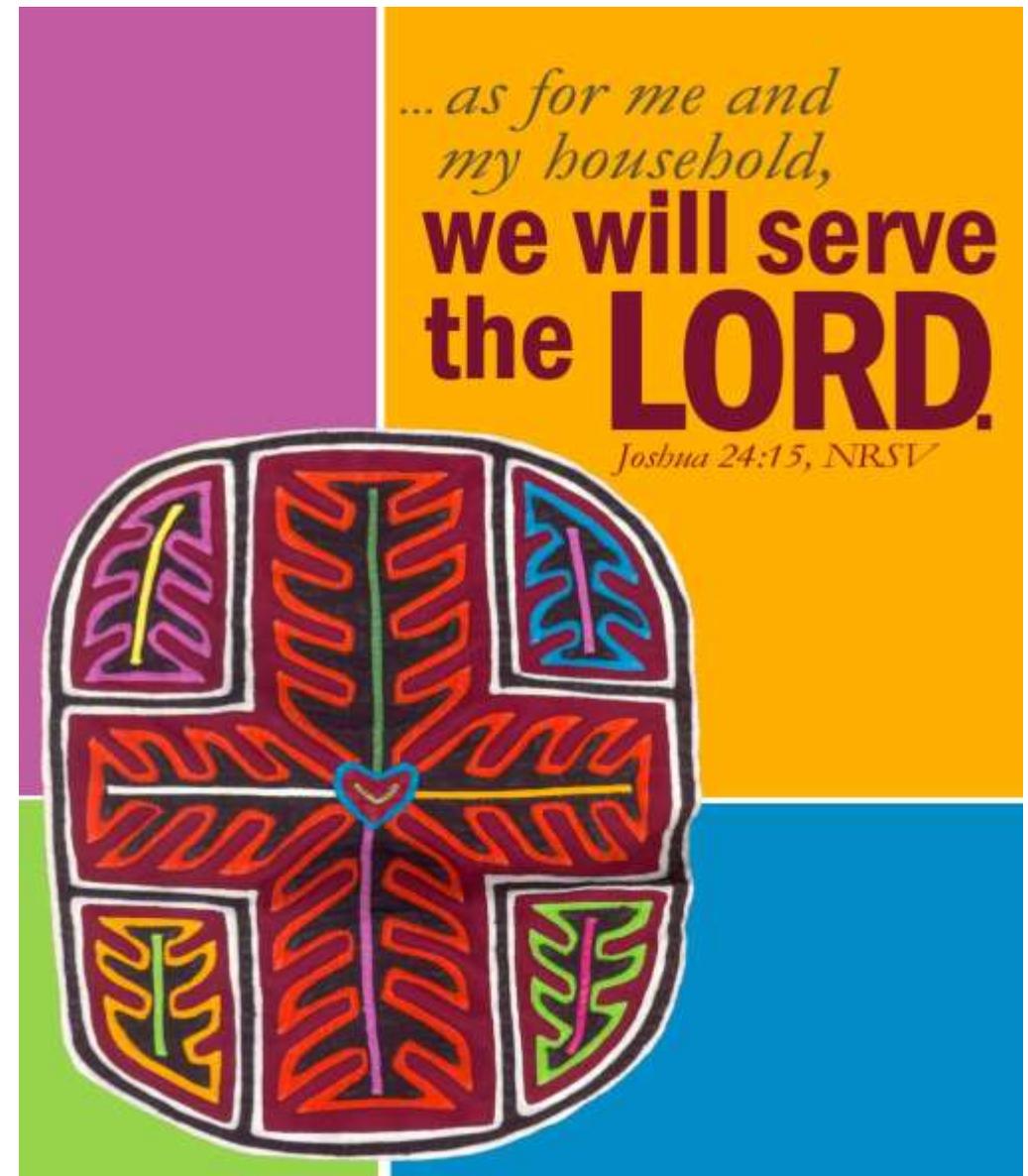
<sup>6</sup> "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom <sup>[a]</sup>is coming; go out to meet him!' <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

<sup>13</sup> "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour <sup>[a]</sup>in which the Son of Man is coming.

2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of <sup>[a]</sup>the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."



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LeRoy United Methodist Church  
A Community Church: Moving Forward  
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