

**February 2, 2020 8:30 & 10:45**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

*Those Whom Christ Commended: Mary of Bethany*

Our focus today will be on the issue of **priorities**. Mary was commended by Jesus because she had her priorities in order, with her Lord in first place. The most important question in the living of our lives is often not "what do we do" but "what do we do first?" What is so vital that it must be done **now**?

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** **Hymnal 548 In Christ there is no east or west** *McKee*

**Greeting**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people.** *Psalm 96:1, 3*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit**  Psalm 19: 14 *Karle Erickson*

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts

 be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our rock and our salvation.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: You are the salt of the earth.

**People: May we season the world with faithfulness, O God.**

Leader: You are the light of the world.

**People: May your love shine through us, O Christ our Savior.**

Leader: You are a city built on a hill.

**People: May your vigor make us bold witnesses, O Spirit of the living God.**

*Worship & Song*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\* **Hymnal 545 The Church’s one foundation** *Ratisbon*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**God of creation, your heavens and earth shout out the amazing news of your power and glory. God of justice, your laws of mercy and goodness reveal your vision of harmony for all people. God of love, your Son Jesus Christ proclaims the amazing news of your liberation for all who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. May we join with all of creation to become your message of love to the world. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

\***Worship & & Song 3119 Take, O take me** *Take, O take*

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

 **set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

John Bell © 1995 The Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications Inc.

 **… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**\*The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

 **People: And also with you.**

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong. James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples**

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the sanctuary near the end of the service.

**Hymnal 640 Take our bread** *Take our bread*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marcy Picardi 10:45 Bob Mallery

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Philippians 1:3-11 Paul gives thanks for the Philippians

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

 **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\***Celtic Alleluia:** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times) *James J. Chepponis*

\*Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospel

 Luke 10:38-42 Jesus visits Martha and Mary

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

8:30 **Offertory Solo** This little light of mine *African-American Spiritual, arr. H. Helvey*

10:45 **Offertory anthem**  *Douglas E. Wagner*

 Let us in the Lord rejoice, lifting hands and hearts and voice.

 For His steadfast love and grace, let the Lord, our God be praised,

 with our thanks forever raised.

 Those who look to God above will be filled with all His love;

 source of faithfulness and strength, may we find truth in His Word,

 seeking justice undeterred.

 When we share the Holy Feast, yet withhold grace from the cup,

 turn our blindness toward the least, heal our schisms as we sup,

 God, through mercy, lift us up.

 Through the witness we proclaim, may it honor Jesus’ name;

 sharing Christ, the Word of Life, spreading hope that sets all free to live in eternity.

 Ronald W. Cadmus © 2018 Lorenz Publishing Company

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Mary of Bethany” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3167 Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1) *Greg Scheer*

**Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the broken bread, be revealed again.**

 **Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

© 2007 Greg Scheer

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following*

*words . . .)* As we affirm the mystery of faith:

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words. . .)*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, to all eternity.

***[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]***

**AMEN.**

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

*During the distribution of the elements at the 10:45 service you are invited to join the choir singing the first two stanzas of hymns beginning with 612.*

**Prayer following Communion**

**Lord, you now have set your servants free
to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of ours have seen the Savior
whom you have prepared for all the world to see!
Blessing and honor and glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 581 Lord, whose love through humble service** (stanzas 1-3)*Beach Spring*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 581 Lord, whose love through humble service** (stanza 4)*Beach Spring*

 **Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Jane Spicher in celebration of her husband Rob's birthday tomorrow.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Ken, Holly, Christian, and Andy Schultz in loving memory of John F. Nigon, Holly's father.

**The rosebud on the altar** is given by Betsy Harkins in celebration of the birth of her granddaughter, Noelle Christine Harkins. Noelle was born January 14 to proud parents Raymond Harkins and Gretchen Gring.

**Greeters 8:30** Fran Travis **10:45** Lavisa Ward

**Special music at 8:30** is provided by Robert Richards, a chemical engineer during the week and a tenor and member of the Chancel Choir on the weekends.

**Special Music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cori DeLuca, a church member who teaches piano in the area.

**Acolytes** Grace Giles and Vivienne Volek

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**Luke 10:38-42**

38Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” 41But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

May Frederick, Baptist Home

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Anne Hoffman, Providence Point

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Ezra Gibson, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Steve Howard, Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Bob Mallery, Carol Van Sickle,

Arlene Stewart, Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $66 for the chancel.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

**SUNDAY 2/2**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 8:30 am The Gathering Asbury

 9:30 am Sunday School Various

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 12 pm Youth Super Soup Lunch Asbury

**MONDAY 2/3**

5 pm Faith For Today Wesley

7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Church Council Meeting Wesley

**TUESDAY 2/4**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**THURSDAY 2/6**

8:30 am Northside Lunch Prep Asbury

 9 am Hearts and Hands Epworth

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room