

## WORSHIP for July 19, 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on Facebook from the homepage.
- 2) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to [janetann386@gmail.com](mailto:janetann386@gmail.com)
- 3) If you need a COVID-19 cloth mask call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.

*Prelude played by Megan Ladd, "Blessed Assurance" Public domain; Fanny Crosby, 1873*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lrMo3T32Oo&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8\\_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=3&t=36s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lrMo3T32Oo&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCeI331DmVVU&index=3&t=36s)

**Call to Worship:** Romans 8:35, 37-39 *Responsively*

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

**No, in all things we are more than conquerors thru him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**Opening Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of61LP4L34M>

**Prayer of Confession:** Romans 8 *Unison*

**God, our flesh is weak, and we yet sin. Lord, our hope is dim, and we yet fear. Forgive our sin and save us from ourselves, for your love is far greater than any sin or suffering. Amen.**

*(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** Romans 8:31-34 *Responsively*

*"What, then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*He*

*who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him,*

*graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?*

*It*

*is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more*

than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

We believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**“The Gloria Patri”**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD\\_m4OhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU)

**Hymn of Preparation: “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsBpM9IcBts>

**Call to God’s Word:** *Unison*

**“Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?”** John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

**Prayer for Illumination:** *Unison*

**Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring**

**you glory and praise. Amen.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44-52 (NIV)**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+13%3A44-52&version=NIV>

**SERMON: “Treasure, Pearl, and Net”** by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

**Watch sermon on:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFNVieChHWjSwasLE6QzCOQ/playlists>

Today’s parables continue the series on the kingdom of heaven. Two weeks ago we heard the parable of sowing the message of the kingdom. Last week we heard the sequel parables on sowing of weeds, birds in the mustard plant, and of yeast in dough, warning us of false teachers and teaching, but also exhorting us to patience, goodness, and kindness as we await the harvest of the kingdom coming in full. Today we hear the parables of the hidden treasure, the pearl of great value, and the net. How do these new parables relate and enhance the previous parables & how do they apply to us?

In the first parable from two weeks ago, we identified a certain farmer, who is the same as the owner in the parable of the weeds. Other characters who appear in the parable of the weeds are servants who ask about uprooting the tares. The owner, however, tells the servants to wait until the time of the harvest before separating the wheat from the tares. Similarly in the parable of the net, good fish are separated from bad. The good fish are kept. But the bad, like tares, are thrown into the fire. The servants in the parable of the net are the angels, whose job it is to weed out the bad fish, after collecting the good ones. But there are other servants that Jesus mentions in the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl. They are referred to in Jesus’ last words in v. 52: “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” This is why the owner of the field is patient.

Although the disciples were warned to be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, there are Jewish religious leaders who do become disciples in the kingdom of heaven, such as

Nicodemus who came to Jesus early in his ministry referred to in John 3 & in Mt 27 Joseph of Arimathea who gave his tomb for Jesus' burial. They saw signs of the kingdom among the pearls of wisdom literature in Scripture. They saw treasures revealed in the Torah & among the Books of the Prophets. They recognized Jesus, the Son of Man, as the one who sowed the seed of the message of the true kingdom, as the anointed one, the Messiah, & the Christ.

And they were not the only Jews who understood & believed. There were the fishermen, like Peter and Andrew, who were called by Jesus in Mt 4:19: "Come, follow me,... & I will send you out to fish for people." Like the man who found the hidden treasure & the pearl of great value, they traded all they had to buy into the kingdom. They left their family, family business, & earthly inheritance for a greater inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. Vv. 20-22 tell us: "At once they left their nets & followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee & his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, & immediately they left the boat & their father & followed him." They prepared their nets, like the net in today's parables. Besides these, on Pentecost 3,000 Jewish believers came to profess Jesus as Messiah. It is with these that Gentiles are grafted into the root of David, together becoming the one new humanity.

Since then more of Jewish descent have come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. At least a ¼ million and some estimate 1.2m Messianic Jewish believers are in the US alone, in Israel 15 to 50k, and at least 350k worldwide, while 14.7million Jews. Since I work on Sundays, when able I have spent my Sabbath worshipping on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings in Messianic Jewish congregations. 2 Messianic congregations here in Ohio, in New Albany and in Mansfield. FPCP members, Mike Bernstein, a Messianic Jew, and his wife Janet have joined with me in worship in Mansfield and during COVID-19 online for Passover. Before coming here, I worshipped at a Messianic congregation in Monroeville, PA, where I grew up. I still continue in friendship with members there. Since I was a teenager, I had an interest in the Jewish faith, the faith of Our Messiah Jeshua. During high school, I was frequently invited to spend Shabbat in the home of a Jewish family, who also took me to synagogue especially during Jewish holy days. I even started to learn some Hebrew, which helped me in my study in seminary and beyond! Now that we know that the man who found the treasure hidden represents those of the Jewish faith who became disciples in the kingdom of heaven, please hear this partial biography of Maurice Reuben, who is like the man in today's parables who found treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price. This story was shared at the end of May with our Wednesday night Bible study, as we were studying a history of the faith that affected our area & church. See: [historica.fandom.com](http://historica.fandom.com)

Maurice Reuben was born to a wealthy Jewish family, and he lived & worked in Pgh, PA. He became director of Solomon & Reuben, one of the largest stores in Pittsburgh, & he once lived to earn money. However, one day, one of his buyers told him of the happiness which he received in his "second birth" through accepting that Jesus was born of God; Reuben was so moved by his customer's testimony that he bought a New Testament & was amazed to discover that all those who followed Jesus were Jews. Upon reading of Jesus' dealings with a rich Jew of the first century, in which Jesus told the rich man to sell all he had in exchange for eternal life, Reuben decided to do the same thing. He lost his father's inheritance due to his

change of religion, & he also declined his brother's offer to give him a large amount of money if he would cross the United States & retire to Montana. Reuben was arrested & taken to the police station after he was accused of losing his sanity, & he was kept with 29 deranged people, during which time he... focused on Jesus' suffering over his own. He began to pray for the other 29 inmates... two weeks later, when his brother visited him again & attempted to convince him to move to Montana, Reuben said that the reason he was in prison was not a medical condition, but something else. After six weeks of imprisonment, Reuben was released with the help of Christian friends & of the judge,... a Christian, who argued that... the trial was a disgrace to the American flag, & that Reuben should prosecute those who had anything to do with his imprisonment. However, Reuben forgave those who imprisoned him, although his brother & wife Belle Wittenberg refused to shake hands with him.

Reuben then rented a small room in Chicago and became an evangelist...

He later met Rees Howells at a Methodist chapel back in Pittsburgh and convinced him to embrace the Cross as he had done; ...[in turn] Howells went on to found the Bible College of Wales.

Between these two men, Maurice Reuben & Rees Howells, one Jewish & the other Gentile, the message of the kingdom spread thru the world, yielding a crop more generous than 100, 60 or 30x of what was sown. These men, like the man in the field who sold all that he had, did so with great joy & great faithfulness. Like them, we as disciples of Christ are called to put the kingdom first. This is a call of eternal benefit, beyond that of any temporary earthly work. The treasure is not hidden from us as followers of Christ. This is the Good News of the kingdom, boldly preach by Jesus, his apostles, and all his disciples! Spread the word! Change lives. Advance the great riches of the kingdom of heaven found in Christ alone! Thank be to God.

### **Hymn of Response: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itUNSwS4q9E>

### **PRAYERS OF JOYS & CONCERNS, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Unison***

Send requests to Pastor Janet's email [janetann386@gmail.com](mailto:janetann386@gmail.com) or call or text 412-877-8310.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus**

### **Prayer Of Dedication: *Unison***

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

**Doxology**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

**Closing Hymn: "Rejoice the Lord is King"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bA3h3nKc4io>

**Benediction:** *Responsively*

Go now in joy to love and serve the Lord: in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, taking the treasure of the kingdom to share with the world.

**Amen.**

*Please join together again in worship next Sunday!  
If able, please remain for a time of sharing during*

**Table Talk.**