

## WORSHIP for August 2, 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 Laura Keesor, "Savoir Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Public domain; Bradbury*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkDhXdAkxU&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8\\_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=10&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkDhXdAkxU&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=10&t=0s)  
*(Please remember to pray for Laura, fighting against an aggressive form of cancer.)*

**Call to Worship:** Psalm 23 (KJV) *Unison*

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:**

**for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Opening Hymn: "The Lord is My Shepherd"**

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

**Prayer of Confession:** Psalm 23 *Unison*

**Lord, we confess that rather than following on the right paths to lie down beside still waters, we wander away. We fear evil, rather than fearing our displeasing you. We complain about the food on the table and fight against the anointing of your Spirit. With our having confessed, grant us forgiveness. Amen.** *(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness:** Psalm 23 *Responsively*

*Jesus, you are the good shepherd, who in your goodness and mercy came for we who were lost. You took our sins upon you at the cross. 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: “Break Thou the Bread of Life”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAZrT8SVYBM>

**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 Readings: Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2014:13-21&version=NIV>

### **SERMON: “Pastures along the Lake” by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford**

**Watch sermon on:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

v. 13 “When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.” That is when Jesus heard that his cousin John was beheaded by Herod, a son of the man who attempted to kill Jesus when he was a toddler in Bethlehem. His cousin John was chosen to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. His cousin baptized Jesus in the Jordan river, anointing Jesus into his ministry of preaching and teaching, healing and calling others. But now John, Jesus’ cousin, is dead. Needing bereavement leave from work, Jesus tries to withdraw privately to a solitary place to process his grief, and to regroup for ministry ahead. Perhaps there have been times, when we have needed to do the same. Perhaps we have packed up our campers or cars to get away from the pressures of all that is happening. Or at least we want to, even if we can’t due to the constraints of our own limitations. We can understand how Jesus must have felt, right? Which is a comfort to us, knowing that he understands how we feel.

But Jesus is a celebrity. He is famous, having many followers, even well before social media. He can’t get off the grid, even if he could leave his cell phone behind. The crowds manage to find him, invading his much needed privacy. V. 13 concludes: “Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.”

And how does Jesus respond to this invasion of his personal space? Does he try to disguise himself in a hat and dark glasses? Does he get angry? Does he ignore the intruders? V. 14: “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.” In compassion, Jesus responded by delaying his mental health leave. He went right back to work. He carried on his ministry. He healed their sick.

He had a long hard work day. For that’s what leaders have to do in times of emergency and great need. During this pandemic, doctors, nurses, and other health workers have had to

do the same. Grocery store, delivery, and warehouse workers have had to do the same. Leaders of government, businesses, schools, and churches have had to do the same. Days are long and hard. The stress is nearly unbearable. Sacrifices are made. Vacations and other trips are lost. Time with family and friends is foregone. Personal time is sparse. All out of compassion for the crowds. To a small degree Jesus' disciples seem to respond similarly. V. 15: "As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'"

Now at this, Jesus changes his focus. Instead the crowds, he responds to the disciples. He takes advantage of a teachable moment, because his remaining time with the disciples is limited. His cousin John had just been killed. Before that Jesus was rejected by the people of his own hometown. The religious leaders were accusing him of aligning with Beelzebul, the prince of demons. He is aware of many unrepentant towns. His life becomes more and more threatened. Now he must concentrate on preparing his disciples for his absence, for his death. In V. 16: "Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' As if to say, you have seen signs of the kingdom come to earth as it is in heaven, through me. Remember, too, when I sent you ahead of me to the towns. I instructed you (10:6-8), 'Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.'" Reminding the disciples of these times, Jesus instructs. Now "You give them something to eat." Act in the ways I have instructed you. Prepare for ministry ahead.

But the disciples do not think that they can feed the people. They see their resources as too limited. They do not think they have enough. So in v. 17 they answer Jesus, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish." Jesus did not ask them how much food they had to share. He didn't ask them to take stock of the pantry. To give an inventory account. He likely already knew. He asked them to give the people something to eat.

Now Jesus is more explicit. He requires only one thing. One offering. One giving. One act of faith. V. 18, "Bring them here to me." If like in the parables just told by Jesus days before, the farmers among them had access to their crops, perhaps there would be more bread, but they are in a remote location far from their fields. If like in aforementioned parables, the fisherman among them had their nets to catch a large haul, perhaps there would be more fish, but they are in a remote location far from their boats. Yet in faith apparently they obey Jesus' request. Humbly they give of humble means. They bring forth the meager offering that seems far too little for the cause. The disciples can't imagine the outcome, which is immeasurably more than they can ask or imagine. A picnic by the lake, far bigger than any they have ever seen.

Now Jesus acts. Before this he told parables. Now he enacts a beloved parable. In v. 19 Jesus "directed the people to sit down on the grass." In the Gospel of Mark, look it up, Jesus had the people sit down specifically on the green grass. Imagine the people dotting the hills of Galilee. The fields speckled white with thousands of people. Commentators convey that the scene is Jesus enacting Psalm 23, where the shepherd causes his sheep to lay down in green pasture. Pause to imagine this peaceful pastoral scene.

Then Jesus, like in the Psalm, sets table before them. V. 19, "Taking the 5 loaves & the 2 fish & looking up to heaven, he gave thanks & broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples." Now think ahead to the night of Jesus' arrest at the last supper & breakfast on the beach at his resurrection.

Again pause to take it in. Jesus broke 5 loaves & 2 fishes to distribute them equally between 12 disciples. After blessing the elements, he simply handed back to the disciples exactly what they had given him.

Now the miracle happens, not thru Jesus, but thru the faith & obedience of the disciples breaking bread. Vv. 19-21, "And the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about 5000 thousand men, besides women and children."

In the parable of the sower, at best sowing produces a crop, yielding 100, 60 or 30 times what was sown. Now at the picnic by the lake, bread blessed by Jesus shared in faith by the disciples, yielded a bounty of a 1,000 times or more. And there were leftovers, 12 basketfuls of broken pieces equal to the number of disciples, who came from varying backgrounds with a variety of talents and gifts. But each one giving what little they had participated in showing forth the abundance of the kingdom. Whereby, all ate & were satisfied.

This message is for us. Jesus works to prepare his disciples to minister in his model of ministry. Does he not call all of us to do the same? Not just the pastor or the elders, but all his disciples. Jesus instructs, "You give them something to it." Jesus waits for us to bring what talents & resources we have. And when in faith we obey, how many will be feed? The only way to know is to do as Jesus asks. May Jesus bless and consecrate what we offer that thru us others might be blessed. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**Hymn of Response: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeSoE1Kmmv0>

**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>

**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.**

**Closing Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jotNbcFelX4>

**Benediction:** *Responsively*

In goodness and mercy, we carry your Good News into the world, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Please join together again in worship next Sunday!*

*If able, please remain for a time of sharing during*

**Table Talk.**