



Monroe United Methodist Church

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February 10, 2019 8:00 Worship

The Church Gathers in God's Name

PRELUDE Joy! Bell Choir (8:00)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Most Holy God, let today be a fruitful day of rest. You rested from creating to model that your creation needs rest. The first day of the week is a small reminder that Jesus was raised on a Sunday, the first day of a whole new world. Let me be refreshed in worship today. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS GENERAL CONFERENCE

OPENING CHORUS Only Trust Him John H. Stockton

- Come, every soul by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord;
and he will surely give you rest by trusting in his Word.
Only trust him, only trust him, only trust him now,
He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now.**

- Come then and join his holy band, and on to glory go,
To dwell in that celestial land where joys immortal flow.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore #344

UNISON PRAYER

Lord, Jesus, you have called us to work with you in spreading the invitation to grace. You use many images to help us see: fruitful seeds on fertile soil, fishing with nets to let the crowds know, and run-aways welcomed home with open arms.

There are many ways we can fulfill your invitation to us: we actively engage people, we passively let them see the change you're bringing in our lives, and the range between.

Let us –as individuals and the congregation – live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel. Active and passive, farming or fishing, the whole world will see we are not ashamed or afraid when you are with us. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

The Church Hears God's Word

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Daniel's Diet

SPECIAL MUSIC Lord of the Wind and the Sea Chancel Choir (8:00)

EPISTLE READING Philippians 1: 21-30, ESV

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5: 1-10, ESV

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON

The Church Responds to God

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

OFFERING

Be Thou My Vision

Bell Choir (8:00)

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PERSONAL PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN

Would I Have Answered When You Called

Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!?"

Would I at once have left behind both work and family?

Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim

and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?

Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,

on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?

Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,

where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?

Would I have matched my step with yours

when crowds cried, "Crucify!"

when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?

Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,

a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?

O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,

nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.

I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!"

you'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

DEPART WITH BLESSING



Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6)

Our church exists so that all people might
find the Way, know the Truth, and experience the Life!"

General Conference Message
Monroe United Methodist Church
February 10

General conference meets in St Louis in two weeks to consider three plans for our denomination. The two key questions focus on whether United Methodists should affirm same sex marriage and practicing homosexual pastors.

One option is called the One Church Plan.

This plan would eliminate any of our current policy that prohibits same-sex marriage and the ordination of sexually active homosexual pastors. It would declare that the UMC is not of one mind regarding sex and marriage, and it would allow individual pastors, local church leadership, Annual Conferences and Bishops to interpret and decide related issues differently.

Marriage would be redefined as a monogamous covenant relationship between two *adults*, thereby allowing – though not forcing – pastors to perform same-sex marriages. It would create a patchwork of different practices across United Methodism where some churches and some pastors would perform same sex marriages and others would not. Local churches could write policies for or against same sex marriages, and bishops would be expected to appoint pastors with similar views.

Whether or not to ordain and appoint sexually active homosexual clergy would also be decided by each individual Annual Conference. This One Church Plan is supported by the bishops.

Another plan is called the Connectional Conference Plan. Right now, the United Methodist Church is organized by geography. We are in the Wisconsin Annual Conference in the North Central Jurisdiction of nine states. This plan suggests that Methodist Churches should be affiliated by their teaching about sexuality instead.

Each local church would have to choose to connect to one of three Conferences – the Progressive, the Unity or the Traditional. All three would share the Book of Discipline for church management and theological tradition. But for matters about marriage and ordination, each church would choose a conference based on principles, not geography.

Pastors and churches that either support or don't support same sex marriages would have to find each other no matter where they are.

The third plan is called the Traditional Plan.

The Traditional Plan retains the church's current position that all people are made in God's image and all people have sacred worth. But the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Openly gay people shall not serve as pastors and United Methodist churches may not host same-sex weddings and United Methodist pastors may not perform same sex weddings.

The Traditional Plan would provide stricter accountability for pastors, Annual Conferences and Bishops who do not agree. It provides a gracious exit for individuals and churches who can no longer abide by the current standards. The gracious exit means that churches can leave the denomination without having to pay market value of their property. An 'exit fee' to help cover pensions would be assessed.

There is a chart on blue paper on the welcome center that describes all these plans.

You can talk to Pastors Randy and Karen if you want to know more.