



## **February 24, 2019 – “What is God’s word for us today” based on Luke 6:27-38**

### **Lectionary readings**

- Genesis 45:3-11, 15
- Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42
- Luke 6:27-38
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

### **Sermon Notes**

Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain selection gives the standard for living and behaving as God’s children. This selection has brief proverbial sayings collected one after the other. Jesus instructs his followers on how we should love even those who hate or are opposed to us. The rules of instruction illustrate the key verse in 6:36 to be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. There are key ideas in this whole passage as to what the Lord’s Word would be for us. The sermon on the Plain from Jesus returns us back to what our mission should be. During this time of General Conference, the preacher and pastor would do well to remind the church what our true mission is all about especially as United Methodists.

### **Response to the Word**

Following the sermon, a time of prayer could be offered. Invite the congregation to come forward for a time of prayer at the altar. There could be creative expressions listed on large sheets of paper with the phrases from this part of the Sermon on the Plain. Have three sections with Large print on each for a banner inviting people to list how they would: Do Good to those that Hate You; Lend and Expect Nothing in Return; Don’t Condemn and You Won’t Be Condemned. In anxious times taking the time to create and express can be very healing and constructive both physically and spiritually.

## Music Selections

### Traditional

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Hope of the World                          | UMH 178                   |
| Open My eyes, that I May See               | UMH 454                   |
| The Voice of God is Calling                | UMH 436                   |
| Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service    | UMH 581                   |
| Lord, You Give the Great Commission        | UMH 584                   |
| They'll Know We are Christians by our Love | TFWS 2223                 |
| We All are One in Mission                  | TFWS 2243                 |
| As a Fire is Meant for Burning             | TFWS 2237                 |
| Ubi Caritas (Live in charity)              | Upper Room Woshipbook 394 |
| Listen                                     | Upper Room Woshipbook 416 |
| In Love You Summon                         | Upper Room Woshipbook 428 |
| If You Believe and I Believe               | Upper Room Woshipbook 437 |
| Praise with Joy the World's Creator        | Upper Room Woshipbook 73  |
| The Summons                                | Upper Room Woshipbook 60  |
| Your Song of Love                          | Upper Room Woshipbook 149 |

### Contemporary Music

All the Poor and Powerless  
This Is Our God

### Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made  
We will rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day God makes something new  
We will rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day to be still and know God  
We will rejoice and be glad!  
This is the day God loves  
We will rejoice and be glad!

### Prayer as General Conference Special Session begins

*(Place 3 candles in prominent spot)*

Today we pray for delegates from around the world preparing for the special session of The United Methodist Church General conference.

We light the first candle remembering God our Creator works in us and at this moment in our delegates.

**We give thanks for the work of those who spent countless hours creating three optional plans for finding our way forward.**

**Forgive us, when we can't see a way forward. May we unite as one in Christ answering the call to go make disciples for the transformation of the world.**

We light the second candle that calls us to follow the way of Jesus, the way of loving when we don't want to love, the way of loving those difficult to love, the way of loving that glorifies God.

**We give thanks for the greatest gift of Love, Jesus, who teaches us the best ways to live and love. Forgive us, God, when we fail to see of your children as your beloved. May we speak with words filled with encouragement and healing, setting aside our own desires to seek the desires of Christ Jesus.**

We light the third candle that reminds us you, God, are always with us, in us and around us. You Give us the Holy Spirit to carry on the work of Jesus Christ.

**We give thanks for the power of your Spirit that fill us, your beloved children. Forgive our narrowness and stubbornness of mind that blocks our knowing the Spirit more fully. May we trust in the Spirit's guidance by opening our heart and mind to living love through the heart of God.**

God, we come to you individually and in unity praying for bishops and delegates during this week. Thank you for your amazing grace that pours over us all. **Amen.**

### **A Bidding Prayer**

Sisters and Brothers,

We gather on this Lord's Day to worship with song and Word and prayer. Each of us brings our own prayers to lay before our God. Each of us carries our own shouts of joy and burdens of sorrow. Today we carry to this bench of mercy all our United Methodist brothers and sisters. Today we pray for the decisions of our delegates in St. Louis. So let us go to the Lord and pray:

For those who are new to faith and seek a community where they will grow in grace and truth;

For those who have lived their lives trusting in the prevenient, justifying, sanctifying grace of God;

For those who are broken down by dissension, disappointment, and denial of their place in the reign of God;

For those who are broken down by disagreement, disapproval, and denial of the purity they long for;

For those who have left the church;

For those who are holding on for the church to be different;

For those who have carried the Creeds and Cross with sacrificial love;

For those who have carried the Cross seeking justice for the betrayed and the lost;

For the world, for all creation;

For mercy to bless each table, and hope to knock at each door;

For the Holy Spirit to lead us in the way of Jesus as we live for the reign of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus as he taught his disciples to pray:

[The Lord's Prayer]

### **Unison Prayer**

Holy Spirit,

Guide and direct my thoughts and deeds from the rising of the sun until I rest my eyes in slumber;

Guide and direct my sisters and brothers in faith so that we will find your Spirit that binds us together;

Guide and direct our body – the church – as we seek to follow Jesus.

Direct us to give honor to your name – oh holy One in Three Holy Mystery.

Direct us as the feet, hands, and heart of the crucified and risen One – Jesus the Christ.

Holy Spirit, lead us. Holy Spirit, carry us into God's will for abundant life. Amen. So be it. Amen.

### **Benediction** (based on Psalm 37:1-11 UMH 772)

Do Justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

**Commit Your way to the Lord; trust in God, who will act, bringing forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.**

Do Justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

**Be still and wait patiently before the Lord; do not be angry because of those who prosper in their way, because of those who carry our evil devices!**

***But Do Justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Amen and Amen!***