

Worship Service

BY ANN BELL WORLEY

Prelude (Organ or Guitar Medley)

“Just As I Am,” “I Surrender All,” and “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Silent Meditation

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 4:23-25

Tolling of Bells

(The bell tolls twelve times, representing Jesus' call of the twelve disciples.)

Call to Worship: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Invocation

O God, you have turned our world upside-down through the life and teaching of Jesus. Awaken us now to your blessing. Open our ears that we might hear. Stir our hearts that we might act to glorify you in all things, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Processional Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*All glory, laud, and honor, to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

You are the King of Israel, and David’s royal Son,
now in the Lord’s name coming, our King and blessed One!

Refrain

The company of angels are praising you on high,
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply:

Refrain

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present:

Refrain

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise:

Refrain

As you received their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness, O good and gracious King!

Refrain

Theodulph of Orleans (750-821); trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH

Greeting

The Sermon on the Mount is the largest collection of Jesus’ teachings in Scripture. The teachings were not delivered all at once but were woven together as a unified whole in the Gospel of Matthew. Beginning with the well-loved Beatitudes, the Sermon walks us through Jesus’ teachings on the law, worship, and the practice of faith, and concludes with a series of warnings and an admonition to act upon the words of Jesus. Our service of worship progresses through each of these broad movements, creating space to reflect upon the teachings and to practice what Jesus preached.



THE LAW: MATTHEW 5:17-48

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;
I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17

Antiphonal Reading: based on Matthew 5:21-45

"You have heard it said, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

"But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.

"You have heard it said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a person with lust has already committed adultery in the heart.

"You have heard it said, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows that you have made to the Lord.'

"But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven or by the earth. Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No.'

"You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

"But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek also.

"You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Readers 1 and 2: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus said: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Hymn

“The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
the ancient of eternal days, the God of love!

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blessed.

Your Spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
in prophet’s word you spoke of old, and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
who was, and is, and is to be, fore’er the same!

*Daniel ben Judah, (c. 1400); trans. Newton Mann (1836-1926) and
Max Landsberg (1845-1928), alt.*

Tune: LEONI

Homily: On the Law



WORSHIP: MATTHEW 6:1-18

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them;
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:1

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18, 5-9a

Jesus said: “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put

oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. [*Choir standing*]

“Pray then in this way:

Choral Interlude (A Capella)

“The Lord’s Prayer (Traditional)”¹
Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt.
Tune: PLAINSONG

Homily: On Worship

Hymn

“Eternal God, May We Be Free”²

Eternal God, may we be free
from false pretense and foolish pride;
help us your perfect will to see,
and cast unworthy thoughts aside.

From worship that is insincere,
with shallow words and thoughtless prayer,
may we be free, your voice to hear,
and then respond with newfound care.

O God our Father, we confess
an unconcern for those in need;
break through our sinful selfishness,
and reign as Lord of word and deed.

Renew our lives that they may be
alive and vibrant to your call,
with ears to hear and eyes to see
new ways to crown you Lord of all.

Michael G. Dell
Tune: CANONBURY



PRACTICING THE FAITH: MATTHEW 6:19-7:12

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;
for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-24

Jesus said: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Offertory Piano or Organ Meditation

"Seek Ye First"³

Karen Lafferty

Responsive Reading: Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

"Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

"Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"

"And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"

“Therefore do not worry, saying ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’

“For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:1-12

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

“Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

Homily: On Practicing the Faith⁴

Communion

Youth Choir Anthem

“Blest Are They”⁵

David Hass

Prayer

In this act, O God, we remember Jesus, who showed us the way to life through his own life and death. May we continue to feast on his words, to love your law, to honor you in our worship, and to practice our faith to your glory, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Hymn

“From Galilee He Preaches Still”

Ann Bell Worley

Tune: KINGSFOLD

(pp. 35-37 of this volume)

Benediction: from Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Amen.

Organ Postlude

Reprise: “Just As I Am,” “I Surrender All,” and “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

NOTES

1 The Lord’s Prayer (Traditional), *The Hymnal 1982* (New York: The Church Pension Fund, 1985), service music S 119.

2 Eternal God, May We Be Free, *Baptist Hymnal* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1991), hymn 299. Words copyright © 1986 by Broadman Press (SESAC) (admin. by LifeWay Worship Music Group). All rights reserved. Used by permission

3 Seek Ye First. Words and music: Karen Lafferty. Copyright © 1972 Maranatha! Music. Phone: 800-245-7664. Web site: www.maranathamusic.com.

4 This homily should include reflection on the warnings at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-29).

5 Blest Are They (SAB, keyboard, G-2958). Words and music: David Haas; vocal arrangement: David Haas and Michael Joncas. Copyright © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. Phone: 800-442-1358. Web site: www.giamusic.com.



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