

# Christ Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*35522 Camino Capistrano, San Clemente, CA 92672*

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*clcsanclemente.org*

*La Cristianita Preschool (949) 496-1405*

*lacristianita.org*

**September 20, 2020 @ 9:30a  
on the church patio**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ALMOST LIVE (PRE-RECORDED) POSTS @ 8:00a each Sunday**

# 16th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

*Together Again, Physically and Spiritually*

## WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

We welcome the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, education, physical ability, nationality, socio-economic status, mental health, and in-recovery, — all who want to join us in serving the world with gratitude, reflecting the unconditional love of God.

Our unity is in Christ.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi from prison. The letter is filled with Paul's sense of joy in the faith of Christ and includes the beloved Christ Hymn of 2:5-11, which confesses what much later came to be termed the two natures of Christ: his humility as a human and Christ's exaltation as Lord of all. Introducing one of the letter's themes, today's excerpt urges the community to live together in unity.*



**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(You are invited to make the sign of the cross)*  
*Holy God, we will be honest: this is really hard. It is really hard to wear masks, to avoid public gatherings, to spend so much time watching screens. We're losing patience and we're losing hope and we're losing our grip on faith. We're caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to be helpful and generous. Please help us. Help us to lean on you and each other when things get hard and when we get depressed. Remind us every day that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Encourage our hearts, and help us to be your people, to the best of our ability in these strange days. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is with us always. Amen.*

**Great is Thy Faithfulness** *(sung by musicians only)*



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

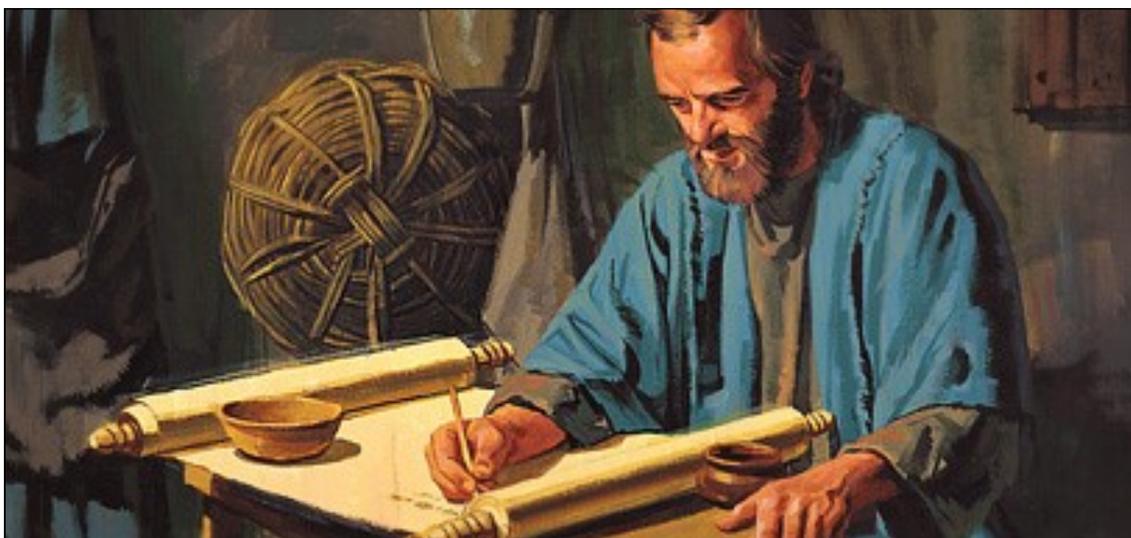
*Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## READING — Phillipians 1:21-30

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

*<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.*

*<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*



## GOSPEL MATTHEW 20:1-16

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*



*[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

## SERMON

**Pastor Steve Awbrey**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**Russel Crabtree & Kenneth Haro**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(spoken by worship leader only)*

*Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

*A brief silence.*

*Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ.*

*Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made.*

*Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers.*

*Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work.*

*We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne.*

*Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Help us to always be praying for families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.*

*All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Brad S. (cancer), Cindy (hospitalization), Mike (health issues), Tom G. (lung cancer), Barbara (pneumonia), Deb (memory), Mark M., Ken T. (cancer), victims of fires and floods.

*Please **renew** or **send new** prayer requests to: [secretary@clcsancllemente.org](mailto:secretary@clcsancllemente.org).*

**PEACE** *(please do not leave your seat but do wave or share a sign of peace)*

*Peace be with you.*

**OFFERING OF GIFTS** *(a basket is available for your gifts when you leave worship)*

You are invited to give at [https:// tithe.ly/give?c=171875](https://tithe.ly/give?c=171875)<https:// tithe.ly/give?c=171875>

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**LORD'S PRAYER** *(please reflect on this prayer that the Lord has taught us)*

*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 and ever. Amen.*

## SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

Bend tab downward to snap.  
Film edge over the wafer is  
easy to find and open.



## ***On Our Way Rejoicing*** (sung by musicians only)

**On our way rejoicing, gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?**

*Refrain:*

***On our way rejoicing, as we homeward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!***

**Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain***

**BLESSING & SENDING**    *The Lord bless you and keep you.*

### **CLC ACTIVITIES**

#### **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

*Join us at 10a as we meet outside, social distanced, to discuss this week's message with the Digging Deeper sermon notes from Pastor Steve. Please wear a face covering and bring your own chair!*

**WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING Book Study** with Pastor Steve & Ron Hegg, MATH

**Time:** *Every Tuesday @ 6:00p - Weekly study guide will be sent out for those wishing to read ahead.*

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/99354547887?pwd=SVVXd0NoLzFrZFRHK1NrYzR3Vjl6Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 993 5454 7887

**Passcode:** 305174

**LAUNDRY LOVE** - *a continuing ministry - pays for the cleaning and drying of our Clients clothes on the third Wednesday every month. We are continuing to experience difficulty obtaining quarters from our banks, due to the coin shortage. If you can obtain quarters anytime over the next month or so, please either bring them to the Sunday service or put them in a jar in the Church foyer. Please put in a baggie, with your name and you will be reimbursed. Questions, or if you would like to volunteer, please call Laura Pephens at 949.248.4596. Thanks!*

#### **CLC BOOK CLUB—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, @ 6:00p via ZOOM**

*We will be discussing "On a Cold Dark Sea" by Elizabeth Blackwell. This is the story of three women from disparate backgrounds who survive the sinking of the Titanic and, 20 years later are brought back together by a mysterious death that forces them to face loss and secrets. For those who like to read ahead, our October and November books will be "Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner and "The Vengeance of Mothers" by Jim Fergus. Contact Judy Franz @ [jafranz47@gmail.com](mailto:jafranz47@gmail.com). Read on!*

#### **SCMFO FUNDRAISER OCT. 23-30—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

*You will receive an auction link and invitation to register as a bidder in early October. Please share the auction link with family & friends! ALL funds raised will go to young military families. Thank you to the many CLC members who have donated items and helped sponsor this different kind of "Salute to Military Stars." Contact Judy Franz with any questions ([jafranz47@gmail.com](mailto:jafranz47@gmail.com) or 310-866-0378). Bless you for bidding!*