



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC LEADER**  
*GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE*

**Journey to Generosity**

# The Way of Jesus

Matthew 9:35-10:23

**NOVEMBER 19TH, 2017**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTCOST**



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
God is still speaking.

# Welcome

*Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary.*

## **Children in Worship**

Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Bags for children are located at the back of the church: teal bags for 2-5 years, navy blue for 6-10 years. We offer childcare in our professionally staffed nursery in our downstairs nursery for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School is on break this and next week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## **Sunday Brunch**

Roast pork loin w/ cranberry bbq sauce stuffing, fruit salad and pumpkin pie

## **Interested in Membership?**

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or email [craig@fccmoline.org](mailto:craig@fccmoline.org).

## **Wi-Fi Password**

Welcome!

## **Resources**

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

## **Getting connected**

Please fill our pew pads to offer us a record of your attendance.

## *Today* from the life of the church

I have one hero, a man called Paulinus who was born in the fourth century, and who came to realize that this civilization was crashing to destruction. He decided that the only thing he could do was to keep alight a lamp in a particular shrine, and that's what he decided to do. It seems to me that that's all one can do, and that, in answer to this ill-omened materialist view of life with this fantastic machine of persuasion behind it, the lamp should say to people that the opposite is true; that as the Christian religion taught originally, so it remains true; that men can't live by bread alone, that men have to die in the flesh to be reborn in the spirit, that men are not creatures of production whose existence can be measured by that what they can produce or by what they can learn, but with a family with a father in Heaven, and that the relationship between men is the relationship of brothers, and that each of them, in that he is loved by the father, must be in all senses the equal of every other, however he might differ in capacity or intelligence or beauty or anything else. All these things the lamp would say.

It seems to me absolutely clear that there is only one answer to the deepening dilemma of contemporary materialism, and that is essentially the answer set forth in the Christian religion—namely that men can never become natives of this earth, and that if they ever succeeded in so doing, then only would the light of their divinity be finally put out in them.

A sermon, "Am I a Christian?"  
by Malcolm Muggeridge.

# *Gathering of God's People*

## **PRELUDE**

“First Movement Theme” from *Piano Concerto No. 2*  
by Sergei Rachmaninoff

## **GREETING AND WELCOME**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The time for harvest is close at hand.  
What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

**We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.**

Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

**We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been  
blessed.**

Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

**Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.**

## **\*OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Lord of bounty and goodness, we come to you this day in  
gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the  
blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your  
holy name. Bless each of us here, that we may truly become blessings  
to others. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **\*OPENING HYMN**

#413 *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray. **O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from the voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. Amen.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*SONG OF PRAISE** *Gloria*

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## *Proclaiming the Good News*

### **SCRIPTURE**

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 90:1-12**

Lord, you have been our refuge

**from one generation to another.**

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,

**from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,

**“Turn back, O children of earth.”**

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past

**and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,

**they fade away suddenly like the grass;**

in the morning it is green and flourishes;

**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we are consumed by your anger;

**we are afraid because of your wrath.**

Our iniquities you have set before you,

**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

when you are angry, and all our days are gone;

**we bring our years to an end like a sign.**

The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty,

**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?

**Who rightly fears your indignation?**

So teach us to number our days

**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Festive Toccata on Old Hundredth*  
arr Cathy Moglebust

**\*GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pr. Craig Jan-McMahon

**\*HYMN**#415 *Come, Labor On*

# *Responding to the Good News*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

### **INVITATION**

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

### **OFFERTORY**

“Adagietto” from *Symphony No. 5*  
by Gustav Mahler

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

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

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name. Amen.

# *Sending in Mission*

## **\*HYMN OF SENDING**

#369 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

## **\*POSTLUDE**

*Adoration*  
by Don Wyrzten



*Altar flowers given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Clifford L. and Roberta J. Peterson*

## **SERVING TODAY**

### *Head Usher*

Jim Moorhusen

### *Lector*

Maya Wennekamp (Confirmand)

### *Ushers*

Jeff Nelson

Christine Nelson

Lucas Nelson

Bobby Nelson

Derek Nelson

### *Liturgist*

Allie Maranda (Confirmand)

### *North Door Greeters*

Cliff Carlson

Heather Carlson

### *Usher Guides*

Jack Reimers

Kathy Reimers

### *Sound Tech*

Brian Williams

## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, Senior Pastor

Rev. Michael Swartz, Associate Pastor

Maureen Holmes, Chancel Choir Director

Patrick Downing, Substitute Organist/Pianist

Gail Glockhoff-Long, Campanella Ringers Director

Jennifer Dailing, Office Assistant

Taylor Anderson, Director of Marketing and Communications

Becca Peterson, Director of Family Ministry

Sara Otta, Finance Manager

Wes Llewellyn, Fellowship Coordinator

Harleigh Jones, Nursery Coordinator

Amanda Peterson, Red Wagon Preschool Director

Mike DeToye and Ron Maher, Custodians



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Gathered to Share God's Love*

# Journey to Generosity The Way of Jesus

Matthew 9:35-10:23

**T**his year's stewardship theme, "Journey to Generosity: The Way of Jesus," takes shape from this passage in Matthew 9:35-10:23, when Jesus said to his disciples:

***"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*** (Matthew 9:37-38)

If we relate this passage to our lives as Christians in a faith community, it's easy to see that the plentiful harvest is God's blessings and we are the laborers. God expects us to give our time, talent, and treasure to help gather the bounty and share it with our church, community, and the world. God expects us to be generous because God is generous. This is the very essence of making a stewardship commitment.

The scripture goes on to tell how Jesus assembled his disciples and told them to go "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near. . . . You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.'"

This is a tall order, even for the disciples, and yet it's not so different from some of the things we are called to do as Christian disciples today: go to the "lost sheep," proclaim the good news, give without payment.

And it is certainly no different from what we do when we make a stewardship commitment. This year, as you consider making a pledge, be reminded of the generosity God has bestowed on you, and let it inspire you to be generous in return.

**For indeed, the journey to generosity is the way of Jesus.**