

# A Note from Pastor Russ

## **UNDERSTANDING THE “SERMON ON THE MOUNT”**

Jesus addresses the Sermon on the Mount to his disciples, and his primary audience is therefore comprised of those who already believe the Good News. Jesus assumes they’re already practicing Christian disciplines. “When you pray,” “When you fast,” “When you give” pepper his instructions. Jesus offers directions for kingdom living, not for kingdom access. He does not say, “Do these things and you will earn the kingdom of heaven,” but, “Do these things because these reflect the ethic of the kingdom to which you belong by faith.” If, therefore, you are a disciple of Jesus by faith, Jesus shows you the heart attributes and practices and lifestyle that ought to characterize you as you walk in and for him.

But Jesus also speaks for a secondary audience, the “crowds,” who overhear his teaching, and who stand amazed at the authority with which he speaks. They already have tasted the good gifts of Jesus’ kingdom, and they will again (Matthew 4:23 and 9:35). In between, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stresses the ethical demands of his kingdom, teaching that privileges come with responsibilities.

If you already count yourself a disciple of Jesus, then I invite you to listen as one who already stands saved by grace. Compare your own heart and actions and priorities to the kingdom ethic Jesus describes. And if you are not yet Jesus’ disciple, then I invite you to overhear as Jesus, the Son of God, exhorts you with a standard that is beyond your reach, and a grace that is beyond your merit.

In short, I invite you to life in the kingdom.

Russ

# Worshiping Our Heavenly Father Who Abounds in Love!

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AUGUST 1, 2021  
10:30 AM

**PRELUDE** *Fugue in E Flat Major* (ST. ANNE) J. S. Bach

Dennis Bergin, organ

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

(Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)

## **WELCOME**

Reverend Dr. Russell St. John, Lead Pastor

**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP** *The Tender Love a Father Has*

Kyrstan Brantley, soprano; Shelly Hannaford, alto

The tender love a father has for all his children dear,  
Such love the Lord bestows on them who worship Him in fear.

The Lord remembers we are dust, and all our frailty knows;  
Man's days are like the tender grass, and as the flow'r he grows.

Unchanging is the love of God, from age to age the same,  
Displayed to all who do His will and reverence His Name.

**\*GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Pastor: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.**

Pastor: The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**People: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.**

Pastor: You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**People: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.**

Pastor: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

**People: He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.**

Pastor: The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

**All: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

**\*THEN BE HIS LOVE IN CHRIST PROCLAIMED!**

## *Stand Up and Bless the Lord*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line contains five numbered verses of lyrics. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line, continuing the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics for the second system are: choice. Stand up and bless the Lord your God With heart and soul and voice. high. Who would not fear His ho - ly name, And laud and mag - ni - fy? brought. To touch our lips, our minds in - spire, And wing to heav'n our thought. ours. Then be His love in Christ pro-claimed With all our ran-somed pow'rs. dore; Stand up and bless His glo-rious name Hence-forth for - ev - er - more.

Words: James Montgomery; Music: Aaron Williams

**\*WE INVOKE HIS PRESENCE**

**GOD EXPOSES OUR NEED** Romans 12:19-20

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

**WE CONFESS OUR SIN**

**CHRIST PROVIDES FOR OUR NEED** 1 Peter 2:21-24

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

## *Thy Life Was Given for Me*

1. Thy life was giv'n for me; Thy blood, O Lord, was shed,  
2. Thou, Lord, hast borne for me more than my tongue can tell.  
3. And Thou hast brought to me, down from Thy home a - bove,  
4. O let my life be giv'n, my years for Thee be spent,

That I might ransomed be, and quickened from the dead.  
Of bitt'rest a - go - ny, to res - cue me from hell;  
Sal - va - tion full and free, Thy par - don and Thy love.  
World fet - ters all be riv'n, and joy .with suff - ring blent!

Thy life was giv'n for me; what have I giv'n for Thee?  
Thou sufferedst all for me; what have I borne for Thee?  
Great gifts Thou broughtest me; what have I brought to Thee?  
Thou gav'st Thy - self for me; I give my - self to Thee.

Thy life was giv'n for me; what have I giv'n for Thee?  
Thou sufferedst all for me; what have I borne for Thee?  
Great gifts Thou broughtest me; what have I brought to Thee?  
Thou gav'st Thy - self for me; I give my - self to Thee.

**WE INVOKE HIS HELP** Psalm 69:13

Doug Loveall, Elder

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.

**GOD CALLS US TO STEWARDSHIP** 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 7

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. As you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also.

**WE GIVE OUR GRATEFUL OFFERINGS**

**WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD** *Prelude in G Major* J. S. Bach

Dennis Bergin, organ

And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation Psalm 35:9 KJV

**GOD PROCLAIMS HIS WORD** Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

**SERMON SERIES** “Sermon on the Mount”

**SCRIPTURE TEXT** Matthew 5:43-48 | page 811 in the pew Bible

**SERMON TITLE** *Christian Love Explained*

**\*THINE IMAGE, LORD, BESTOW!**

*Behold the Throne of Grace!*

1. Be - hold the throne of grace! The prom - ise calls me near:  
2. My soul, ask what thou wilt; thou canst not be too bold;  
3. Thine im - age, Lord, be - stow, thy pres - ence and thy love;  
4. Teach me to live by faith; con - form my will to thine;

there Je - sus shows a smil - ing face, and waits to an - swer prayer.  
since his own blood for thee he spilt, what else can he with - hold?  
I ask to serve thee here be - low, and reign with thee a - bove.  
let me vic - to - rious be in death, and then in glo - ry shine.

Words: John Newton, 1779; Music: FESTAL SONG; William H. Walter, 1894

**GOD INVITES US TO HIS TABLE** 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

**WE FEED ON CHRIST BY FAITH**

Dennis Bergin, organ

**BREAD & CUP**

**\*WITH DEEDS OF LOVE AND MERCY! NO. 580** *Lead On, O King Eternal*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Reprise: Lead On, O King Eternal*

# *Christian Love Explained*

Reverend David Barnes, Associate Pastor

Matthew 5:43-48 | page 811 in the pew Bible

What is Christian love?

1. Christian love resembles the Father (vv.43-45, 48)

2. Christian love outdoes the world (vv.46-47)

\*Congregation please rise

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