



Saturday, June 19, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Good Stewards Together: Stewards of our God-given Talents

GATHERING

Welcome to worship today as we celebrate Juneteenth. June 19th commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, with Texas and Louisiana finally receiving the good news 900 days after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Formerly enslaved people rejoiced, and so, we too, rejoice, lift our voices and give thanks to God.

WELCOME

OPENING LITANY

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,
from micro-aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.

Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color to continue to bear this emotional work, which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:
Grant us wisdom, give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit, all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in Christ Jesus.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 25:14-29

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well

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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.'

²²And 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.' ²³His 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.'

²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

²⁶But 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?

²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Christina Garrett Klein

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

O God, in your divine mystery you embrace difference in unity, and you call your people to live in peace with all for the sake of the world. We pray for an end to racial and ethnic prejudice. Free us from the dread of difference. Free the church from constricting traditions. Free our society from centuries of violence against the other. Break down the walls that separate your people by color, culture, or religion. Call us to repentance for our sins of racism and prejudice, known and unknown. Guide our eyes and ears to recognize and speak to injustices within church and society, transforming discrimination into a passion for justice. Lead us to nurture a society that embodies reconciliation and cooperation among all by listening and learning, speaking up, and joining with others to work for equity and justice for the sake of the one who embodies your love, Jesus Christ.

Gracious God,

Receive our prayers.

We praise you for the lessening of the pandemic, and we pray for all around the globe who continue to face the coronavirus. Open wide our hearts to all who suffer. Send healing to any who are sick, especially those we name here before you. . . .

In all our doings, lead us and guide us, and mercifully accept our personal petitions...

Gracious God,

Receive our prayers.

We praise you for the loving support of fathers to their children. Bless fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, godfathers, and all of each gender who give fatherly care. Comfort those who grieve because they cannot father a

child. Wherever children are deprived of fathers, provide responsible and affectionate care.

Gracious God,
Receive our prayers.

We praise you for all who died in the faith, especially the Emanuel Nine whose martyrdom we have commemorated this week, and those we name here before you. . . . We ask that at our end you unite us with all saints into your presence.

Gracious God,
Receive our prayers.

We praise you for your steadfast love, and we lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

+++ *Receive the Meal* +++

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

We pause for prayer and reflection.

PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us today!

We look forward to seeing you online at 10am on Sunday mornings,
or in-person at our summer worship services.

God Bless and Be Well!



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Our Mission:

Transforming lives by sharing a saving faith in Jesus Christ
and living the Gospel through service

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, connect with our ministries,
meet with our pastor, or learn more about ELC and how to join, feel free to call or
email us. You are always welcome here.

+ Pastor Christina Klein

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