

Welcome to Harwich United Methodist Church



October 29, 2023

Thought for the Week

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. — Abraham Lincoln

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

~~Gathering and Welcome~~

Sharing joys and concerns

Prelude

Call to Worship

L: God has called us to be people of love.

P: God didn't mean the "syrupy" stuff of movies and novels.

L: Truly loving can sometimes be difficult

P: Yet we are called to reach beyond the difficulty with compassion.

L: In all of this, God is with us, guiding and helping us.

P: Thanks be to God for God's faithful presence. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Let All Things Now Living"

#2008

***Opening Prayer**

Lord of light and hope, be with us this day as we have gathered to hear your word. Help us open our hearts to the commandments to love, even when loving is difficult. Give us the courage to be people who will commit their whole lives in your service. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you. Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing the Peace of Christ

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 90:1-6 & 13-17** **#809**

~~The Church Proclaims the Word~~

Scripture Reading **Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

Anthem **"Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me"**

Gospel Reading **Matthew 22:34-46**

L: The word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks Be to God

Message **"The End of a Chapter"** **Pastor Dianne**

***Hymn** **"Many Gifts, One Spirit"** **#114**

***Affirmation of Faith from Romans Chapter 8** **#887**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

#94

***Offering Prayer**

God of unimaginable love, you have given us so much and asked so little. In the words of Jesus, we have been commanded to love you with our whole being, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. For that simple price, you have given us everything and promised to love us and not desert us. It is a covenant more generous than anyone could imagine. As we dedicate our gifts this morning to bringing acts of love, we also resolve to keep our side of your covenant of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

~~The Church Goes Forth ~~

***Final Hymn**

"The Trees of the Field"

#2279

***Benediction**

***God Be With You**

#673

***Postlude**

Liturgist: Pat Thayer

Ushers: June Andrejko and Pat Brothers

Coffee Hour: Juell Buckwold and Karl Young

You are welcome here. No matter who you are. No matter what.

Scripture Readings for November 5, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43;

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Calendar

November 1: UMW at 2pm

November 11: Thrift Shop Volunteers at 12:15pm

November 18: Church Fair

November 19: Administrative Board after worship

November 26: Charge Conference to be held at Chatham UMC at 1pm

Announcement

It's not too early to search your belongings for things to donate to the November 18th Holiday Fair. We need not only "attic treasures" but also linens, jewelry, cookware and creative goodies.

Prayers

The innocent civilians in Israel and Gaza

An end to war as a solution

Grieving: Family and friends of Lisa Dunbar-Link, John Yacobian, Jack Duncan, William Smith, Jr., Margot Karbel, Al Cristofori, and all who have lost loved ones and been displaced by disasters

Hospice: David Thyng, Karen Shaper

Healing: Dave and Pam Purdy, Laurie Bonin, Linda Todenhagen, Karl Young, Judy Thomas, Hilda Remer, Elizabeth Chase, Don Gould, Sr., Ruth Zeller, Joan Felahi, Bruce Gibbs, Dan and Lil Murphy, Kathleen Sullivan, Gloria Green, Chris Shaper

Guidance: Lil Murphy, John and Sharon Chatham, Brian Mielke

Continued Prayers: Brian Mielke, Don Howell, Al Thompson, Donald Turcotte, Kenny Souza, Joan Stevens, Nancy McIntyre, Pauline Doliber, Michael Chatham, Greg Legeyt and Karen Daffinee

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Marisha Dubiel, Music Director