

Happiness is...



Possible | Generous | Thankful

11:00 – November 13, 2016

WELCOME and RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “Come Christians Join to Sing”

INVOCATION

P: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then honestly confess our sins to God our Father:

C: **Father God, at our core we are sinful. It is our natural inclination to fill the empty places of our lives, the hurting places in our lives, and the guilty places in our lives with idols that cannot fill us, heal us, or forgive us. Our search for life and meaning apart from you has separated us from you and from each other. Forgive us Father, and purify us from our sin and our sinful nature. Open our eyes to the gift of your Son, put a song of joy in our hearts, make us eager to do what is good, and give us patient perseverance to wait for Jesus. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed your sins and guilt. Now you can stand in His gracious presence without fear. You are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 24-26 [NIV]

¹I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. ²“Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” ³I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

⁴I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart.

⁹I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. ¹⁰I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. ¹¹Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

²⁴A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE “Alleluia” [p. 164]

HOLY GOSPEL John 15:7-12 [CEV]

⁷Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. ⁸When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored. ⁹I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me.

So remain faithful to my love for you. ¹⁰If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him. ¹¹I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am. ¹²Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

AFFIRMATION of FAITH “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” [LW 171, v. 1, 2, 4, 5]

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON “HAPPINESS IS POSSIBLE”

OFFERING

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Joel Raney & Arnold Sherman

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

PEOPLE of PEACE in PRAYER

Father in Heaven:

•**Peace, Comfort, and Healing** for Mildred Nichols-heart issues; Bab (Adrienne Pekurney's mom)-undergoing immunotherapy treatments for lung cancer; Richard (Lavonne Schumacher's brother)-undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma.

•**Wisdom and Courage** for Elected Officials and Military.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *The Family Prayer of the People of God*

WORDS of INSTITUTION

CLOSING HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" [LSB 738]

CONNECT

- **Young Adult Survey | College Students & Young Adults | Take the survey online**
- **Decorating Day | Sunday, November 20 | Noon | Light Lunch Provided**
- **Parent's Night Out | Friday, December 2 | 6:00-9:00pm | Register Online**
- **"Let it Snow" | Sunday, December 4 | 5:00-8:00pm | Mark Your Calendars**
 - *Don't forget to register for the Chili Cook Off!*
- **Night of Hope | December 12 & 15 | Register Online @ www.6stones.org/noh**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Tune"

Anthony Giamanco

SERMON: *Rev. James L. Mueller*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Morgan Hamilton*



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