



*Forth in God's Dear Name We Go:
Serving and Struggling with Social
Issues*

**WHITNEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

October 18, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

Welcome

Welcome to worship this morning. I am Rev. Christina Thompson, Pastor here at Whitney United Methodist Church and I am so glad you are worshipping with us this morning. Today we continue in our worship series--- Forth in God's Dear Name we go, celebrating what the church is all about. Today we celebrate how the church serves and how we struggle with social issues.

Lighting the candle

As we begin our worship this morning, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder of our connection together as the body of Christ and that Christ is present with us.

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 106)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all God's praise?

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: May we give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the Lord!

People: Amen! Praise the Lord

Prayer Centering us for Worship

O Holy God, as we gather for worship this morning, we give you thanks, for you are good. Help us to experience your steadfast love and righteousness in our hearts in this time of worship. You call us to observe justice and to do what is right. We confess, O God that we want to do justice and what is right, but how hard it is

to do, especially in this divided crazy world we are living in. Forgive us for finding it easy to just do our own thing and to hope that someone else will address the sufferings of the world. Help us to trust that you who call us, equip us to observe justice and do what is right. May we give you thanks for your faithfulness.

Amen

Prayer written by Rev. Christina based on Psalm 106.

Opening Song— 6 Ways to Sunday (Band) And All the People Said Amen

CCLI Song # 6518275
Matt Maher | Paul Moak | Trevor Morgan
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You are not alone, if you are lonely,
When you feel afraid, you're not the only
We are all the same, in need of mercy
to be forgiven and be free.

It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need

And all the people said, "Amen,"

and all the people said, "Amen"

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends,

and all the people said Amen.

If you're rich or poor, well it don't matter

Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after

We're all broken, but we're all in this together

God knows we stumble and fall

And He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all

And all the people said, "Amen,"

and all the people said, "Amen"

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends,

and all the people said Amen.

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart

Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart

Blessed are the hungry for another start

for theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.

And all the people said, "Amen,"

and all the people said, "Amen"

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends,

and all the people said Amen.

Children's Moment

Kimberly Gardner

Scripture

Acts 6:1-6

This sermon series is based on the words from the song 'Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service'. This week we will hear verse 2.

Introduction to the sermon in Song

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" 581 v. 2

CCLI Song # 1730488
Albert Frederick Bayly
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Verse 2

Still Your children wander homeless

Still the hungry cry for bread

Still the captives long for freedom

Still in grief we mourn our dead

As, O Lord, your deep compassion

Healed the sick and freed the soul

Use the love your Spirit kindles

Still to save and make us whole

Sermon

Rev Christina

The Church Serves and is Engaged with Social Issues

Our Anthem today again expresses in music the struggles we have as the wounded world cries out for healing. But it reminds us of the truth that Jesus of the healing spirit, frees us to another way!

Anthem

Andy and Svetlana

Wounded World Cries for Healing #2177

CCLI Song # 2636539

Hal H. Hopson | Shirley Erena Murray

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Verse 1

Wounded world that cries for healing
Here we hold each other's pain
Wounded systems bruised and bleeding
Bear the load the scars of strain
Dollars ration out compassion
Hard decisions rule the day
Jesus of the healing Spirit
Free us to another way

Verse 2

Through our nation's pent frustration
Through the corridors of stress
May there move a kindlier wisdom
All may feel and all may bless
Tax and tithe are for a purpose
Shared to shield the poor and weak
Past the symptoms of our sickness
Let the voice of justice speak

Verse 3

Honor those whose loving spirit
Nurses hope restores and heals
Towel and basin used in service
Like the Christ who comes and kneels
In the tending in the mending
May we see the right and fair
In our common quest for wholeness
Heal each other by our care

Pastoral Prayer

God,
like the Israelites in the wilderness,
we too have known Your love,
and experienced Your care and provision.
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.
And so we bring the needs of our world before You now.
In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many who do not have enough:
enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;
enough employment, or money to pay their bills;
enough medicine or medical care.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for those who have more than enough,
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities
to dull their pain or loneliness.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, Your grace reaches out to all of us.
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,
working together with one heart and mind.
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy
of the Good News we have received,
offering our lives in service of Your kingdom,
where the last are first, and the first are last,
and there is grace enough for all.
Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick and struggling and in need of your
healing and abiding presence. We lift to you these names in the
quiet of our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, **Amen.**

Written by Christine Longhurst, from the website re:Worship

The Lord's Prayer

Dewey Knowles

Offering

In the best of circumstances, we can delight in the blessings of unrestrained giving. In the worst of conditions, there is yet so much to share. So we come today, forever on a journey that calls for our generosity.

You can give of your tithes and offerings by sending in a check to the church by mail, or giving electronically through our website.

Let us pray over the offerings that will be collected. We give thanks to you O God, for all you have given to us and for the ways you take the bits we offer and multiply them. We are grateful that through your spirit, the hungry will be fed and the oppressed find freedom. Multiply we pray the work of our hands. **Amen**

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Closing Hymn

Andy and Svetlana

What Does the Lord Require of You #2174

Chorus

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness,
Walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice and love kindness
And walk humbly with your God.

Sending Forth

May we go into the world to continue to serve and struggle and be your church.

Passing the Peace

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you,
And also with you.

Invitation to next week

I invite you to join us next week as we continue this sermon series, called Forth in Your Dear Name We Go: The Church is compassionate.

After worship, you are invited to our virtual coffee hour on zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist church group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Also remember that there are many ways to connect with us even as we are physically distancing.

Our radio program Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday mornings at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

May God be with us until we meet again