

**ORDER OF WORSHIP with TEXTS  
for MARCH 29, 2020  
ROAD TRIP: *Be Quiet, I'm Driving!***

**WELCOME**

**POST TO FB LIVE COMMENTS OUR CCLI LICENSE #: 1825996**

**OPENING PRAYER\***

**With different gifts, with a variety of talents, with an array of interests, we come to worship you, our creating God. We are here to unite our spirits, to be made one in Jesus Christ, to be merged in hope as your children. Bless our differences, that the unique gifts and perceptions of each may strengthen our oneness. Drawn into your Spirit, we give you the thanks of our hearts, in the name of the living Christ. Amen.**

*\*reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 The Pilgrim Press.*

**HYMN**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, UMH #57, verses 1-3*

*Text: Charles Wesley, Music: Carl G. Glaser; arr. by Lowell Mason*

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,

to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

**READINGS**

***What It's Like to be an Eight***  
*(Cori read on video)*

**from *The Road Back to You***

I have been told that I'm too blunt and aggressive.  
Doing things halfway is not my spiritual gift.  
I enjoy a good verbal skirmish, just to see what others are made of.  
In relationships that matter to me I insist on being honest about conflicts and staying in the fight until things are worked out.  
It's hard for me to trust people.  
Justice is worth fighting for.  
I can sniff out other people's weakness the first time I meet them.  
Saying no isn't a problem for me.

I welcome opposition. Bring it.  
I make decisions fast and from the gut.  
I don't like it when people beat around the bush.  
I'm wary of people who are super nice.  
When I walk into a room I know immediately who has the most power.  
I don't have much respect for people who don't stand up for themselves.  
One of my mottos is "A good offense is better than a good defense."  
DON't mess with the people I love.  
I know I'm respected. But sometimes I want to be loved.  
I have no problem confronting a bully.  
If God wanted people to wear their hearts on their sleeve, he would have put it there.  
Under my tough exterior is a tender, loving heart.

### **Luke 4:14-21**

*(Rachael read on camera)*

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

### **OFFERING**

*Rachael invite people to pause and offer our praise to God.*

*Share about why our offerings matter - invite offerings to UMCA, ACBC, Good Sam Fund*

*Laura post link to online giving, mailing address for church*

**EMMA MILLER singing Oceans by Hillsong**

## **DOXOLOGY**

*He Has Made Me Glad*

*The Faith We Sing, #2270*

Songwriters: Dp / Jonathan Jr. Du Bose

He Has Made Me Glad lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart

I will enter His courts with praise

I will say this is the day that the Lord has made

I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad, I will rejoice for he has made me glad

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God, even in times of struggle, we are deeply blessed because we know that you are with us. As we find new ways to give generously to one another and to our neighbors, open our minds to creative possibilities and open our hearts to work for the common good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 11:12-25 (Laura video)

The next day, after leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. From far away, he noticed a fig tree in leaf, so he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing except leaves, since it wasn't the season for figs. So he said to it, "No one will ever again eat your fruit!" His disciples heard this.

They came into Jerusalem. After entering the temple, he threw out those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. He didn't allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He taught them, "Hasn't it been written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you've turned it into a hideout for crooks." The chief priests and legal experts heard this and tried to find a way to destroy him. They regarded him as dangerous because the whole crowd was enthralled at his teaching. When it was evening, Jesus and his disciples went outside the city.

Early in the morning, as Jesus and his disciples were walking along, they saw the fig tree withered from the root up. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look how the fig tree you cursed has dried up."

Jesus responded to them, "Have faith in God! I assure you that whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea'—and doesn't waver but believes that what is said will really happen—it will happen. Therefore I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you will receive it, and it will be so for you. And whenever you stand up to pray, if you have something against anyone, forgive so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your wrongdoings."

## **Sermon for UMCA**

3/29/2020, Rev. Rachael Warner

I love this excerpt from the journeys of the disciples with Jesus. It might be one of the more confusing passages, for sure, and also one of the most very relatable for us as human beings trying to understand what it looks like for Jesus to be human AND divine at the same time. Today we heard about Jesus cursing a fig tree and turning over tables in the temple.

Now, we're jumping a little bit out of order today because the passage Laura read to us from Mark's gospel this morning describes, a series of events that happen the day AFTER Jesus and the disciples arrive in Jerusalem in a parade of palms, which we will celebrate together NEXT Sunday.

But this is exactly the kind of passage that will help us as we seek to know, understand, and better love the people in our community who are EIGHTS, and as we see something very powerful that Jesus has to offer them.

If you're new to UMCA now that we're online, or you've missed the previous weeks of this ROAD TRIP worship series, we are trying to grow in our appreciation of what makes us different as we navigate some pressure situations that can make it hard to stay in community with one another. So how do we do it? How do we stay together, especially in times like right now when we actually have to stay apart? How do we love one another even when we fervently disagree?

Over the last two months, we've undertaken this road trip together as a time to get to know each other and come to appreciate what we each bring to the community, using a tool called the Enneagram that categorizes human personalities into nine types.

We believe that Jesus has something to offer or teach all of us, and we're learning about the ways Jesus is inviting all of us to live better, love better, and serve better. Today we are checking in on our beloved type Eights.

Earlier in our worship time, Cori gave us a good sense of how Eights show up in the world. Their nickname, the challengers, serves a double purpose as they believe in challenging themselves as leaders and at the same time they are not afraid to challenge the rest of us to step up. They come across as powerful and incredibly confident, but like all of us they carry a fear - theirs is the fear of being harmed or controlled by others. This fear manifests in eights as a need to be in control, and often as a need to be against something, which helps them define their power.

Eights are folks who tend to see things as black and white, right or wrong, hopeful or hopeless. Eights are born leaders and are good at taking charge, sometimes too good when they are under stress and can become aggressive or controlling of others. Because eights possess confidence and a clear sense of direction, people like to follow them and see them as authority figures. Following Eights who lead can be an incredibly successful experience as long as everyone pulls their own weight.

Now, let's get back to Jesus. Remember how he saw that fig tree from a distance in today's reading? He and the disciples had been traveling, walking. He had a lot on his mind and heart as he was facing the upcoming events of Holy Week - saying farewell to his followers, wondering if they would have what it takes to keep the mission going after his death, knowing he would be betrayed, turned over to the authorities, denied, crucified by the empires of human greed and power.

So, that morning, as the disciples passed a fig tree with big, full leaves, Jesus paused. The scripture says that Jesus was hungry. In my house, we have a different word to describe how Jesus was probably really feeling that morning - but there's no translation for our word in the ancient Greek. Still, I submit to you this: Jesus was HANGRY.

You know what I'm talking about, right? Jesus was tired, under great stress, and hungry. A terrible combination. And all of it together made him so hungry that he had become angry. HANGRY. And even though it wasn't yet the season for figs, the tree looked full and lush and ready, so he went closer in hopes he'd find figs growing there to eat.

He didn't. Arghhhhhhhh.

Under his breath he muttered to the tree, "You're done tree. You'll never bear fruit again."

Unfortunately, the disciples heard him, and so imagine their surprise when the next day they walked by the same tree only to see it withered away to nothing. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach the disciples a valuable lesson, one that speaks very directly to our Eights:

You have power. In God, you are powerful. When you pray, God listens. When you act, people are watching. And when you forgive, that forgiveness also has power. The underlying message: use your power wisely. It has consequences.

Eights have power. It's part of their very makeup. The danger of this power is that Eights can lose control when they feel that power is threatened. And it's not that Eights don't have vulnerability or desire love. They do - but they are afraid that someone might exploit them in weakness or that if they show their vulnerability we won't love them anymore. So they put on protective gear when they come out into the world.

And when Eights are healthy, and when we do our part to remind them that we love them in their power AND in their vulnerability, they are unstoppable forces for good in our world. They are champions for those who don't have the means or opportunities to fight for themselves. They have the drive, the intelligence, and the endurance to make the big changes others believe cannot be possible. Eights don't give up, they don't give in. They will seek justice and grow justice and empower others of us as we work alongside them.

Think Jesus in the temple. Still hangry? Maybe.

But also, when Jesus arrives in the temple that same day, and he sees the buying and selling and trading happening, he's had enough. Now, let's make sure we put this moment into its proper context. In the time and place where this story happened, the temple was the center of community life. It was not at all unusual for merchants to gather on non-holy days at the temple square to set up a marketplace. This is where people came, all week long, to gather for religious and social and economic purposes. These folks were doing things the way things were done.

So why was Jesus so angry on this day, in this moment, when he arrived at the temple? Is Jesus responding to something specific he sees happening in front of him, or has he chosen this moment to show his righteous anger at economic systems that feed injustice? The scholars have not settled the question and still debate this text often and fervently, but today for our Eights, I suspect this offers a moment of validation. A suggestion that there is a time and place for assertive and bold defense of what is right and just.

See, it can be too easy for us to dismiss our Eights as aggressive and overbearing when we don't give attention to what is driving them, which is most often the desire to protect what is right and to protect the people they love. And if you have ever been in that circle, someone loved by an Eight, you know that their love is the most committed, loyal, and fierce love you'll ever experience.

This struggle can be especially difficult for Eights who find themselves living in more passive or passive aggressive cultural contexts. Do you know any places like that? Eights can seem aggressive in such cultures, when in other parts of the country or world, they might fit right in as people who say it like it is, speak their minds, and tell the truth in a straightforward and direct way. In this moment of table-turning at the temple, Jesus offers our Eights a mirror to see that there IS a time and place to stand up and name injustice. And, as Jesus models throughout his life and ministry, this is also a reminder to Eights that such standing up is most effective when such moments are part of a life that is balanced between strength and vulnerability, power and healing, control and servant-like humility.

Another point worth making is that our culture tends to treat Eights differently based on gender. While male Eights are often seen as bold, decisive leaders, female eights who behave the same way might be treated as if they are overbearing, bossy, or undesirable. Remember, though, that when Eights are healthy, regardless of gender, they display strong and assertive leadership while also being attentive and sensitive to the needs of others and to their own needs.

In times like this, especially times of crisis, panic, and worry, our Eights are exactly the leaders we need. They trust facts, make decisions, and lead us without stopping every five minutes to worry whether people still like them. It is up to the rest of us to remind our Eights that we love them, even when they feel vulnerable and at risk. They need to know that we are not going to kick them when they're down or betray them while they pause to tend to their feelings. Eights, we love you. You can let your guard down with us. We will stay with you.

And, alongside you, we are committed to the mission of Jesus, which he proclaimed at the beginning of his ministry, another gift to our Eights as a reminder of what the justice we are fighting for looks like:

The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to the poor, the captive, the oppressed.

May the Eights among us lead the way.

Please join me in offering a word of blessing for the Eights.

### **A BLESSING FOR THE EIGHTS**

**May the Lord bless this grace-filled journey home to your true self.**

**May God the loving parent give you wisdom to understand  
that strength is made perfect in weakness.**

**May the heart of Jesus infuse and compel your heart's passions,  
helping you to be tender with yourself.**

**May the Holy Spirit ground you with patience to wait  
for all that will be accomplished in you.**

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*excerpts of prayers provided by The Church of England  
start with a deep breath*

Keep us, O Lord, under the shadow of your mercy, in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort and in knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbor,  
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, be close to those who are, afraid or in isolation and those who are  
struggling to find ways to grieve losses of loved ones without ritual or closure.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**





Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain.  
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Be with those whose work is essential even or especially now,  
and with families whose work separates them from one another.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbors.  
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes.  
**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray together now, led by the children of our congregation  
and united by the words Jesus taught us to pray:  
**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### **Be Still My Soul, vs 1-2**

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. by Jane Borthwick, 1855 (Ps. 46:10)

Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from The Hymnal, 1933

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best,  
your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future, as in ages past.  
Your hope, your confidence  
let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul:  
the waves and winds still know  
the Christ who ruled them  
while he dwelt below.

**BENEDICTION**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.**

**May the face of the Lord shine upon you and be gracious unto you.**

**May the Lord's presence with you give you peace.**

**Amen.**