

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**October 8, 2023 A.D.**  
**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson - Pastor**

Gathering Music  
Welcome & Announcements  
Prelude

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***P: The God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy we men and women have been born again into a life full of hope through Christ's rising from the dead.***

Therefore, let us gather together and sing praises unto his name this day!

***All: Amen and Amen! May His name be praised this day!***

The Morning Anthem

Call to Confession

L: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Therefore, let us confess our sins on this day.

In Unison: ***Almighty God: you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own needs. We have gone along with evil, with prejudice, warfare, and greed. God our Father, help us repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**Pastor:** Friends, who is in a position to condemn but only Christ, who died for us, rose for us, and prays for us. Know this day that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

***What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!***

Sharing Our Faith with Our Children

\*Hymn - ***This Is My Father's World #293***

The Morning Scripture Lessons: **Isaiah 5:1-7    The Song of the Vineyard**

**5** I will sing for the one I love  
a song about his vineyard:  
My loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

**2** He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it  
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,  
but it yielded only bad fruit.

**3** "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

**4** What more could have been done for my vineyard  
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,  
why did it yield only bad?

**5** Now I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,  
and it will be trampled.

**6** I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it."

<sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the LORD Almighty  
is the nation of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are the vines he delighted in.  
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;  
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

## **Matthew 21:23-32            The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup> John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

### **The Parable of the Two Sons**

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

<sup>29</sup> “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup> “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup> “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of

righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Sermon: ***At the Intersection of Yes and No***

\*Hymn – ***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us #387***

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology (Hymn #592)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

\*Sending forth and Benediction

\*Choral response                   ***God be with You Till We Meet Again***

***God be with you till we meet again, by His counsel guide, uphold you, with His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;***

Postlude

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Liturgist: Sherri Newell

Soloist: Jessica Starcher

Head Deacons: Deb Cooper & Karin Thompson

Rev. Dr. Murray Joseph Thompson                    Music Director: Pamela Carroll

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The flowers today are dedicated in memory of Ann Thomas

Given by: Nancy Thomas

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