



THE FIRST PRESS

From Tom's Study

"And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day in the scorching heat.' But the landowner replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous? So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'" – Matthew 20:11-16 (The NRSV)

Some of Jesus' parables simply shock us. For most of us The Parable of the Generous Landowner is perhaps one of those parables. The Landowner chose to pay all the workers the same wage, whether they worked all day or just the last hour of the day. The all-day workers were outraged at this injustice. Like most of us would, the all-day workers felt that they should be paid more since they worked more hours. But the Landowner chose to pay each worker enough so that worker and family would be able to get what they needed to survive that day.

As this parable points out injustice looks different depending where you are standing. For the all-day worker injustice takes one bent. For the end of the day worker injustice takes a different bent. For the Landowner injustice takes yet a different bent. And for the outside observer injustice takes even a different bent. This parable challenges us to attempt to look at injustice through the eyes of God. From God's perspective what does injustice look like?

This parable also challenges us to consider our understanding of generosity. What makes an act generous? The landowner asked the all-day workers, "Are you envious because I am generous?" Again we are challenged to consider what something looks like from God's perspective, this time generosity. What does generosity look like to God?

As we seek to be people following the Jesus Way and as we make our way through the season of Generosity/Stewardship these are two great questions for us to consider. From God's perspective what is injustice? And from God's perspective what is generosity?

As people are we working to align our perspectives about injustice and generosity with those of God? The parable would suggest that for God the injustice is that some people do not have enough, and generosity is making sure that everyone has enough.

As a congregation we have a long history of working to understand and embrace God's sense of injustice and generosity, of working as a community to make sure that the people of our county have enough. What a blessing and gift to join in God's work to care for all people well. As we generously pool our resources we have amazing opportunities to join in the work of God. Thanks for choosing to be a part of First Presbyterian's ministries of grace and mercy and generosity.

Christ's Peace be with you - Tom



Sermon Information

October 2020

October 4 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:13-15, Matthew 19:16-30

Sermon Title: “Who’s In and Who’s Out?”

Synopsis: Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus proclaim people as “insiders” when the world thinks of them as “outsiders”. At the same time Jesus proclaims people perceived by the world as “insiders” as actually “outsiders”. In the passages today, Jesus proclaims children as “insiders” and a rich young ruler as an “outsider”. Often Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God as upside down compared to the world. What does all this teach us about how we live, and how we think about others?

October 11 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Psalm 106:1-3, Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon Title: “Giving What is Right!”

Synopsis: Justice is not always easy to determine. In this parable, Jesus talks of an employer who pays a group of daily workers the same wage even though they work different numbers of hours. For the workers who work all day this practice seems quite unfair. For the workers who only work a short period this seems like a great pay practice. The question is, what do we learn about God and our own faith journey, and our own loving of neighbor from this parable?

October 18 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:17-19, Matthew 20:20-34

Sermon Title: “Where is Our Blindness?”

Synopsis: This section of Matthew’s Gospel focuses on the reality of spiritual blindness. Jesus continues to teach about the kind of Messiah he is but the disciples continue to be blind to that reality. There is also a story about the blindness of James, John and their mother. Of course these stories are here to encourage us to consider where we are blind to our own misunderstandings or shortcomings. When and how have you become aware of blindness in your life?

October 25 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:18-22, Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon Title: “Stubborn Fruitfulness”

Synopsis: We have entered the part of Matthew’s Gospel where Jesus is in Jerusalem and his execution is rapidly approaching. During these few days it would appear that he spent much of his time teaching in the Temple. After his initial act of cleaning out the temple, Matthew shares a little scene where Jesus curses a fig tree that looks healthy but is not bearing fruit. This story encourages us to think about what it looks like for us to bear fruit for God’s Kingdom. How would you answer that question?



FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I would like to specifically turn the spotlight on two of our ministry teams this month.

Congregational Care Team - FPC is looking for new ways to reach out to each other during this "new normal" of COVID

19 and we are working on rebuilding our Congregational Care Team as part of this. Sharon Adcock has agreed to head up the team. Thank you, Sharon!

As we rebuild, the team will be making phone calls to our church members asking or confirming birthdates and other pertinent information so our data base has correct information. We would like to send cards, as appropriate to each member, including children. It is hard to be physically out of touch so we are looking for new ways to connect. You are invited to participate in this new old venture if you would like, and Sharon would welcome any of your ideas. Please keep the team in prayer as they begin this endeavor. You may contact Sharon at pastorsharonk@msn.com - or 719-539-4685 home or 719-221-0110 cell.

Landscaping Team – Did you know that every blade of grass is an evangelist? Think about it. If you drove past a church that was in disarray, would you be attracted to enter the doors? Probably not. So as summer ends, it's time to give a big thanks to the following people for keeping our church grounds looking spiffy:

Barry Snyder and **Richard Longberg** for mowing the grass and **Gaylene Stevens** and her team of women, which includes **Nancy Hyde**, **Linda Madden**, **Lois Scace**, and **Barb Snyder**, for vigilantly attacking the weeds. **Kurt Jones** kept the sprinkler system running, and **Pat Findley** is our plant doctor, giving TLC to the shrubbery. A very huge thank you goes to **Scott Beresford** for his dedication to the church outside maintenance this summer. It seemed like every time I drove past the church, his little red pickup was here and he was either mowing, spraying for weeds, hand sprinkling, striping the parking lot, and the list goes on.

In closing, remember "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:17. So, please, either email me at cindy@salidapresbyterian.org or call me at 539-4222 and let me know what God is calling you to do!

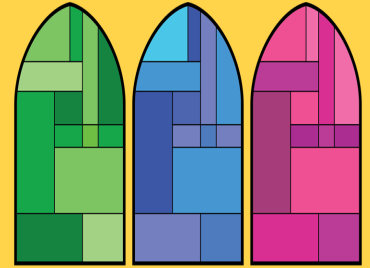
Cindy





COME WORSHIP WITH US

Through October we will continue in person worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. If you haven't yet returned to worship with us in person you are encouraged to watch the preparation video on our website, which explains how in-person worship takes place. Through September there continued to be between 25 and 40 people at the early service and 20 to 35 people at the second service. We continue to broadcast both worship services live on the church's Facebook page. You can also access the broadcast at our website (www.salidapresbyterian.org) Sunday afternoon, typically by 1:00, and it remains there for any other time you want to go back and watch it.



Welcome to Worship

REGULAR UPDATES

We continue to regularly reach out through e-mail and the phone tree to let you know of opportunities to gather online or to share resources you might find interesting. Also please reach out to Tom or Hilary at the church. They continue to hold down the church office Monday through Thursday from about 9:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m. Lexee is in the office Monday through Wednesday most often from 8:00 to 4:00. Don't be afraid to call or stop by to introduce yourself to her. Burma continues to volunteer some hours on Thursdays.



COMMUNION



Just as we shared in communion in September, we look forward to again sharing together around the Lord's Table on Sunday, October 4th. If you join us for worship online please find some bread and juice, so you can partake with us.

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER



We encourage all of us to get on the phone and regularly check-in with folks. You might even call someone you have never called before.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tom continues to host a Bible study by way of Zoom on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. Tom emails out a Zoom link each week, the day of the Bible Study.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each fall the nominating committee begins its work of inviting people to serve our congregation in either the role of elder or on the nominating committee. This year the nominating committee will be looking for three elders, and three people to serve on the nominating committee, one of those being an alternate. The nominating committee will present their slate of nominations to the congregation at the congregational meeting on December 13, 2020. Please be holding the nominating committee in your prayers as they participate in their vital work.



GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

The annual Generosity Campaign has begun. Returning pledge cards is always a huge gift for our budgeting process, but that will be especially true this year as we set a budget for 2021. The Generosity Team invites everyone to be praying about how he/she will participate in this year's campaign. Thanks ahead of time for your generosity.



THANKS FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We realize that times of unknown, like this one, make financial giving even a greater gift of faith. Thanks for stepping out in faith continuing to support the ministry of First Presbyterian. You can now give on-line at the church's website. Check it out – www.salidapresbyterian.org





CONTINUING COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Like restaurants around the country we are open for take-out. Stone Soup, the Food Pantry, SOS and Energy Outreach Colorado continue to offer support to our neighbors who are experiencing food shortages, or help with other financial emergencies. We also are hosting Laundry Love the first and third Monday of the month. Showers are continuing but at the Methodist church on Monday and Thursday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. We are grateful for your support that allows us to continue to be a part of the emergency services for our county.

WINTER SHELTER

We hope to make the shelter a permanent source of assistance to people in our community. Toward that end we are looking for a dedicated home for the shelter, and on-going financial support for the shelter. Thus we would appreciate your continued prayers, ideas and support as we work to establish a permanent shelter in our community for people who chronically or unexpectedly find they are experiencing homelessness. If you have an interest in getting involved, if you have ideas or resources to share please reach out to Tom Abbott, Beth Sanders, Cheryl Walker or Hal Walker. If you would like to make a donation you can write a check to "Caring and Sharing" putting "winter shelter" in the memo-line. Or you can use this link to give on the go-fund-me page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/salida-colorado-overnight-winter-shelter>



—STAYING— CONNECTED

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church office 719-539-6422 office@salidapresbyterian.org
Rev. Tom Abbott, Pastor: tom@salidapresbyterian.org
Rev. Hilary Downs, Associate Pastor: hilaryd@salidapresbyterian.org
Dan Shuford, Praise Band Director: danny@salidapresbyterian.org
Liz Riley, Choir Director, Pianist: emusic1955@gmail.com
Lexee Barrera, Administrative Assistant: office@salidapresbyterian.org
Cindy Dykins, Volunteer Coordinator: cindy@salidapresbyterian.org

ELDERS

Linda Colling	719-539-8634	lrcoll327@yahoo.com
Bob Grether	719-530-1788	bkgrether@outlook.com
Phil Maes	719-530-1224	philmaes@yahoo.com
Brian King	719-530-1534	chiroking@live.com
Debbie Quintana	719-221-2557	spikewee4u@yahoo.com
Cecil Rhodes	214-493-8157	CECILWR1948@gmail.com
Barb Snyder	719-539-3956	bsnydermail@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY-9:00 AM-5:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY-CLOSED

