

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, June 21, 2020 – Third Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day
Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

It is not easy being a Christian disciple and a good family person; there may be built-in conflicts.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

People: ***You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.***

Pastor: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

People: ***Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.***

Pastor: The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Unison: ***May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel! Amen.***

Special Prayer for Father's Day

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Eternal God, be gracious to us, as the journey is wearisome. Comfort us and revive our souls. By your Holy Spirit, let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Reading from Scripture: **Romans 6: 1b-11** **Luke 15:11-32**

[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]

Message: **DAD IS LOVE!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O God, We thank you for drawing us closer in your grace, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. We thank you for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world, for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay focused with God's wisdom. Trust his promises.

May the God of Justice be your path, The Lord of Mercy be your guide, and the Spirit of love be your light, this day and forevermore.

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Scripture Readings – June 21, 2020

first reading -- **ROMANS 6: 1b-11**

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into

his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

second reading – LUKE 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’”

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his

slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe -- the best one -- and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.