

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, June 28, 2020 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
John Wesley's Birthday

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

*Seasonal Theme:*

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

*Theme for the day:*

The rewards of being a Christian disciple.

*Call to worship:*

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

Pastor: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I  
will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

People: ***I declare that your steadfast love is established forever.***

Pastor: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: ***Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk O Lord,  
in the light of your countenance.***

Pastor: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

Unison: ***For our shield belongs to the Lord, our King and our Holy one. Amen.***

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

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

Merciful and Sustainer God, we know of your presence, yet we fail to see your  
love and grace in the faces of others. Open our eyes to the power of your love.  
May your Holy Spirit enable us to hear, to listen, and to obey thy message we  
hear today. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*    **Matthew 10:40-42**            **Romans 6:12-23**

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

*Message:*    **THE ESSENCE OF REWARDING!**

*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)*

We thank you Lord for being in us. May this offering be lifted up in the spirit of giving with all that we have, knowing that we receive far more than we could ever give. We pray in your Son Jesus the Christ's name. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction:*

Stay true to your faith. God's abundance of grace remains faithful as well. Know that the reward outweighs all we offer. Be happy. Be prayerful and stay loving.

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Scripture Readings – June 28, 2020

*first reading --* **MATTHEW 10:40-42**

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

*second reading* – **ROMANS 6:12-23**

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*