

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 11, 2020 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

God invites all to the kingdom of joy. However, to accept it is to accept responsibility as well.

Call to worship:

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

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.

People: **Who can tell of the Lord's mighty acts and make all his praises?**

Pastor: Happy are they who act justly, who do what is right at all times!

People: **Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people: help me when you save them.**

Pastor: That I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones.

Unison: **That I may rejoice in your nation's joy and exult with your own people.
Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

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

Holy God, as the ongoing pandemic envelops our days, we are in your presence and know that you are our God; and yet, we hoard the world's busyness, and refuse to comply with your invitation to remain calm. We pray that your Spirit can speak to us in the language of our hearts, that we may hear your Word with understanding and answer your call with confidence. Through your Son Jesus the Christ's name. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Matthew 22:1-14** **Philippians 4:1-9**

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

*Message: **YOU ARE INVITED!***

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)

God, we have opened our hands to you, and our hands have been filled with good things. Receive the gifts and offerings we bring in gratitude for your care of us, and help us to bless you with the dedication of our lives, through Christ your Son. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

May the truth of accepting his invitation matter to you. Be steady, knowing that his love endures all things. Stay active. Stay connected. Serve generously in abundance.

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Scripture Readings – October 11, 2020

*first reading – **MATTHEW 22:1-14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his

troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

second reading – PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.