

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 18, 2020 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
LAITY SUNDAY

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

God had chosen us to serve and to do works of love, sustained with a wonderful hope in Christ Jesus.

Call to worship:

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

Pastor: Lord, you have welcomed us, saying,

People: **“I know you by name, and you have found favor with me.”**

Pastor: Lord, you have promised us,

People: **“My Presence will go with you, and I will give your rest.”**

Pastor: Lord, you have blessed us, saying,

People: **“I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you.”**

Pastor: Lord, you have humbled us, saying,

Unison: **“I will proclaim my holy name in your presence.” Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

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

Faithful Lord, you are here. Hold us when we are anxious, that we may be courageous to do your will. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine for us your Word, that the message of the gospel nourishes our soul. Open our minds to your call to listen, for we know your Word heals and reconciles your people. In Jesus’s power and way we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10** **Matthew 22:15-22**

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

*Message: **WE ARE THE IMAGE OF GOD!***

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)

Thank you God for your generosity, for all that you are and all that you do. We give you thanks, our Giving God. Receive the gifts and offerings to represent a part of what we owe you. Our money bears the imprint of worldly powers, but we bear the holy image you inscribe on our hearts. All that we have and all that we are belong to you, O God. We present our gifts and ourselves freely to you. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Stay safe. Use your power to serve our Living God whose image we bear. May our work be done with faith. May all our efforts be filled with love and persevere with the hope that comes through Jesus Christ.

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Scripture Readings – October 18, 2020

*first reading – **1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10***

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers

and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

second reading – MATTHEW 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.