

Scripture and Messages for November Worship

Monday, October 19, 2015

Members present: Karen Booth, Michael Boersma, Vicki Zuker, Ron Zuker, David Booth, Barb Gripton, Mary Ivanov, Marcia Woodworth, Fred Woodworth, Glenn Chilson, Betty Kinney, Brad Dean, Phyllis Jones, Jim Post, Karen Post

November 1, 2015: "No More Tears"

23th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6

The New Jerusalem

Contemporary English Version

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea.

² Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband.

³ I heard a loud voice shout from the throne:

God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. ⁴ He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.

⁵ Then the one sitting on the throne said:

I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted. ⁶ Everything is finished! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give water from the life-giving fountain to everyone who is thirsty.

Synopsis: Revelation is full of strange images, but the idea of an end to grief captures our hearts. We trust in God's promise to make all things new - maybe not right now - but ultimately. God is with us even as we grieve. There will be peace and comfort.

Felt need: To find comfort in God's promise of "no more tears"

Metaphor/Visuals: Tears. Suspend iridescent balloons (must be kept away from people with latex allergies) or paper tears above the ledge. Could we light them from underneath?

Hands-on item: Glass or acrylic teardrops, maybe with a verse attached.

Activity: Holy Communion

All Saints' Day: Reading names of those who have died since last All Saints Day. Diane is plan on having the bells toll. Light candles, possibly using the ladder. Another possibility: Ribbons with names.

Music suggestions: "There Will Be a Day" by Jeremy Camp (Michael at both services) ; Chris Anderson wrote an instrumental song for his mother, Gayle Anderson, "Don't Cry," which was played during her funeral. We have permission to use it. Karen will contact the Andersons to see Chris would like to play it during communion and send it to Michael in case he wants to write lyrics for it.

Discussion points: 1) This message is powerful for anyone who is grieving, but we all need to hear it. 2) Tears are okay. 3) Are tears a "downer"? Shouldn't we be remembering them with a joyous celebration? 4) One can learn to live with grief, but never fully get over it. 5) Carly Fiorina testified how her faith was renewed through her struggles with cancer and the death of her daughter.

Media: Begin with a chaos or a storm. Transition to sunshine or rainbow to show the promise that things will get better.

November 8, 2015: "Committed"

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Ruth 1: 1-18

Contemporary English Version

¹⁻²Before Israel was ruled by kings, Elimelech from the tribe of Ephrath lived in the town of Bethlehem. His wife was named Naomi, and their two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. But when their crops failed, they moved to the country of Moab. And while they were there,

³Elimelech died, leaving Naomi with only her two sons.

⁴Later, Naomi's sons married Moabite women. One was named Orpah and the other Ruth. About ten years later, ⁵Mahlon and Chilion also died. Now Naomi had no husband or sons.

⁶⁻⁷When Naomi heard that the Lord had given his people a good harvest, she and her two daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab and go to Judah. As they were on their way there, ⁸Naomi said to them, "Don't you want to go back home to your own mothers? You were kind to my husband and sons, and you have always been kind to me. I pray that the Lord will be just as kind to you. ⁹May he give each of you another husband and a home of your own."

Naomi kissed them. They cried ¹⁰and said, "We want to go with you and live among your people."

¹¹But she replied, "My daughters, why don't you return home? What good will it do you to go with me? Do you think I could have more sons for you to marry? ¹²You must go back home, because I am too old to marry again. Even if I got married tonight and later had more sons, ¹³would you wait for them to become old enough to marry? No, my daughters! Life is harder for me than it is for you, because the Lord has turned against me."^f

¹⁴They cried again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth held on to her. ¹⁵Naomi then said to Ruth, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back to her people and to her gods! Why don't you go with her?"

¹⁶Ruth answered, "Please don't tell me to leave you and return home! I will go where you go, I will live where you live; your people will be my people, your God will be my God. ¹⁷I will die where you die and be buried beside you. May the Lord punish me if we are ever separated, even by death!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that Ruth had made up her mind to go with her, she stopped urging her to go back.

Synopsis: Ruth is the shortest book in the Old Testament, but it teaches us a lot about commitment. How does our love for God and our commitment to God show every day?

Felt need: To develop a deeper commitment to God

Visuals: Barley fields/fence created with pallets (Jim Post & friend will supply them) and tall grass (Betty Kinney and church). See <http://www.churchstagedesignideas.com/in-the-fields/>. Keep tears from last week? Add path and footprints up the aisle? Related images: Dave Booth's photo of footprints frozen in sand on the beach. Some people have clay footprints in their gardens.

Media possibilities:

- “I’m with You.” Length: 4:13. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: Naomi and Ruth’s story of kindness, generosity, and selflessness as told through song. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/36214/im-with-you-the-story>. **Comments:** Too long. Hard to read the words. Could we get a chart for Michael to use?
- “Ruth Chapter 1.” Length: 3:00. Cost: \$18.00. Synopsis: The story is told through simple animation. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/40235/ruth-chapter-1>. **Comments:** Very clear telling of the story. Use it.

Activity: Drama?**Music:** #2218 “You Are Mine”; #534 “Be Still, My Soul”; “I Will Follow You” by Chris Tomlin**Discussion:** 1) Pastor Mary’s Seventh Day Adventist pastor friend advises new believers to read Ruth first. Why? 2) This is a story of relationships, especially between Ruth and Naomi. 3) How does this apply to immigrants and refugees today? 4) Ruth refuses to leave Naomi alone with her grief. 5) The movie “Up”: The grumpy old man wants to be left alone. A boy scout forces him to face his grief. (http://www.pixar.com/features_films/UP). When Michael was still using a cane, he felt a little like the old man. 6) It is important to read the whole book of Ruth.

November 15, 2015: “Learning to Love”25th Sunday after Pentecost**Scripture:** Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17

Contemporary English Version

¹One day, Naomi said to Ruth:

It’s time I found you a husband, who will give you a home and take care of you.

²You have been picking up grain alongside the women who work for Boaz, and you know he is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be threshing the grain. ³Now take a bath and put on some perfume, then dress in your best clothes. Go where he is working, but don’t let him see you until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴Watch where he goes to spend the night, then when he is asleep, lift the cover and lie down at his feet. He will tell you what to do.⁵Ruth answered, “I’ll do whatever you say.”^{4:13}Boaz married Ruth, and the Lord blessed her with a son.¹⁴After his birth, the women said to Naomi:Praise the Lord! Today he has given you a grandson to take care of you. We pray that the boy will grow up to be famous everywhere in Israel. ¹⁵He will make you happy and take care of you in your old age, because he is the son of your daughter-in-law. And she loves you more than seven sons of your own would love you.¹⁶Naomi loved the boy and took good care of him. ¹⁷The neighborhood women named him Obed, but they called him “Naomi’s Boy.”When Obed grew up he had a son named Jesse, who later became the father of King David. ¹⁸⁻²²Here is a list of the ancestors of David: Jesse, Obed, Boaz, Salmon, Nahshon, Amminadab, Ram, Hezron, and Perez.**Synopsis:** *Hesed* is a word in Hebrew that means God’s steadfast love. Ruth’s story shows *hesed* in many ways. How do we respond to God’s steadfast love? How do we offer that love to others?

Felt need: To grow in love

Visuals:

Media possibilities: "Ruth Chapter 3." Length: 3:06. Cost: \$18.00. The story is told through simple animation. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/40237/ruth-chapter-3>.

Comments: Very easy to follow. Use it!

Activity: Drama?

Music: #96 "Praise to the Lord Who Reigns Above"; #643 "When Love Is Found"; "Your Love Never Fails" by Jesus Culture; "Your Love Never Fails" by Newsboys

Bells are playing two songs

Discussion: 1) *Hesed* means steadfast love. We see it in Naomi and Ruth's relationship. God was good to Naomi in spite of her losses. He heals and transforms her. 2) In Naomi's day, the only explanation for her loss was God. She is brutally honest and renames herself Mara, which means "bitter." 3) Ruth is there for Naomi, but doesn't judge her. 4) So why does Mary's pastor/friend recommend reading Ruth? Our thoughts: It shows what is possible, despite all odds. God blesses hard work. It shows examples of loyalty and commitment. It gives one an opportunity to wrestle with the hard questions of faith. 5) Why is it so hard to rely on God's grace? Why do we push for more?

November 22, 2015: "Your Kingdom Come"

Christ the King Sunday

Scripture: John 18: 33-37

The Message

³³Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?"

³⁴Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?"

³⁵Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?"

³⁶"My kingdom," said Jesus, "doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king."

³⁷Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?"

Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice."

Synopsis: Jesus' conversation with Pilate before the crucifixion reminds us that Jesus is a different kind of king who ushers in a different kind of kingdom. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, when we pray "Your kingdom come," we're asking for an end to "business as usual" and seeking to be transformed.

Felt need: To trust Jesus to transform us

Visuals: Crown on the cross above the ledge. Also words: My Kingdom is not of this world **or** Servant's heart **or** Change my heart, O God. Ideas from churchstagedesigns.com: LED glow sticks (<http://www.churchstagedesignideas.com/led-glow-sticks/>) or other columns of light.

Media: "King of Kings." Length: 3:20. Cost: \$19.98. He is the king above all kings. He is the king

behind all kings. <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/61088/king-of-kings>. **Comments:** We like it. Good imagery. A bit too long for some people. Note the references to sin and servanthood. The baby's cry leads us to Advent. Use it as an end to the Christian year.

Activity: Holy Baptism and/or Reaffirmation, New Members

Music: "The Lord's Prayer" (Malotte) is #3068 in "Worship and Song"; "King of Glory" by Jesus Culture; "King of Glory" by Third Day; #2152 "Change My Heart, O God"

Discussion: 1) What does "your Kingdom come" to you? Peace on earth. Love. The lion will lay down with the lamb. 2) Christ the King Sunday marks the end of the Christian year.

Odds and ends:

- *Advent music:* "The Storm Is Passing Over" (choir anthem)
- *Advent and Christmas Brainstorming:* We will be at Deb Moon's LeFleur Shoppe on Monday, November 2 at 6:00 pm for a pizza/potluck dinner. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:00 pm. We will be using Adam Hamilton's The Journey as the basis for the messages and a church wide book study.
- *Christmas Eve:* Last year's services were at 6:00 and 11:00 pm. Note from Karen: I forgot to bring this up during the brainstorming. We generally discuss this at Ad Council before finalizing the schedule. If you see a reason why we should change, please contact Karen Booth, Jim Post, or Pastor Mary before the Thursday, October 22 meeting.