

Scripture and Messages for November Worship

Monday, October 19, 2015

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.”^E

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:

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>.

- “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>.

Activity: Drama?

Music: #2218 “You Are Mine”; #534 “Be Still, My Soul”; “I Will Follow You” by Chris Tomlin

November 15, 2015: “Learning to Love”

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17

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:

Activity: Drama?

Music: #96 “Praise to the Lord Who Reigns Above”; #643 “When Love Is Found”

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:

Media possibility:

- "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>.

Activity: Holy Baptism and/or Reaffirmation, New Members

Music: "The Lord's Prayer" (Malotte)