



"In the Rain" Franz Marc, 1912

christ church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Pam Kothrade, Organist/Pianist
Andy Oren, Liturgist

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On this eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we conclude our sermon series, *Busted Stuff*, with an exploration of Jeremiah's difficult announcement to the Israelites living in exile. The Israelites called Jerusalem home because they believed God lived in Jerusalem. Yet, the Babylonian exile robs them not just of their home, but their identity, their welfare, and their perceived proximity to God. In Jeremiah 29, the prophet tells his people to build homes and plant vineyards and gardens in Babylon. This essentially meant they were supposed to hunker down for the long haul instead of returning home. In the wake of difficult news, we all ought to remember these words from the prophet. Everything – good and bad – has a season. What does this mean for those who live in exile? What does God say when our plans are busted apart?

Prelude Seek Ye First/Just As I Am arr. Fred Bock

Words of Welcome

Call And Response

Sometimes life takes us where we don't expect.

Sometimes, God takes us where we don't expect.

In worship, we gather to get in touch with God's bigger narrative.

In worship, we gather to expand our hearts.

So let us worship the God of unending surprises.

Let us worship the God of love.

Opening Prayer

The Gloria

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without
end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

First Lesson

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Ecclesiastes is considered a Wisdom scripture written by an author known as “Qohelet” or “The Teacher.” In this passage, the Teacher reflects on life, death, and everything in between. The Teacher speaks of seasons, nature, humanity, and the cyclical patterns of everything under the heavens.

3 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven;

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh: a time to mourn, and a time to dance:

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together:

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew: a time to keep silence, and a time to speak:

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Special Music *'I've Got Peace Like a River'* Handbell Choir

Second Lesson

A Litany of Remembrance

Sylvan Kamens, Jack Reimer

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,

we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,

we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,

we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live,

For they are now a part of us, as We remember them.

Prayer of Confession

Sarah Are

Creator God,

Being faithful has never been easy.

You asked Noah to build a ship.

You asked the Israelites to plant gardens and build homes while in exile.

You asked the prophets to speak challenging truths.

You asked the disciples to drop their nets and follow you.

And you ask us to love bigger than society wants to.

Being faithful has never been easy, and as a result, we often miss the mark.

Forgive us for holding tightly to human-made plans.

Forgive us for the times we say no to you so that we can say yes to ourselves.

Unravel the grip we have on our agenda so that we can make room for you.

Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

Third Lesson

[Jeremiah 29:1-7](#)

The Israelites believed God lived in Jerusalem. When Jerusalem was sacked by King Nebuchadnezzar and much of the populace was deported to Babylon, the people lost hope and struggled to deal with the loss. Jeremiah prophesied and preached out of this context. The prophet Jeremiah delivers a startling message to those in Babylon—to settle in, build homes, and plant gardens in that foreign land.

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

29 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.² This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the

smiths had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasar son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: ⁴Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Sermon	<i>Busted Stuff: To Build and Plant in Exile</i>	Rev. Dan Stark
Sermon Response	<i>All Things Bright and Beautiful</i>	Hymn 30

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

- ~ Pray for the Reese family as they grieve the loss of Milton Reese. He was 96 and a long-time member, and much loved by his Christ Church family.
- ~ Lynn S.: For my brother-in-law, Mike. He is in treatment for cancer.
- ~ Mary Ann M.: Continued prayers for my friend Kim, who remains hospitalized with multiple medical issues.
- ~ Daniel C. (community): Love of Christ, to renew my walk in holiness. Forgive my sins, wash me new again.

Prayer Song	<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>	Hymn 492 v 1
	Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me	
	Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me	
	Melt me mold me, Fill me use me	
	Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me	

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.**

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Song	<i>For Beauty of Meadows</i>	Hymn 28
Sending		

**God is in the holy surprise.
God is in the busted stuff.
And God is with us today and every day.
Amen. Amen. Amen!**

Postlude*Voluntary on "Lobe den Herren"*

arr. Hugh S Livingston, Jr.

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**Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!**

9/26 – Thad Spidell

9/28 – Kathy Stouff

10/2 – Nancy Jonokuchi

Thank You

I have asked for prayers for my brother-in-law who has cancer. The prayers are working. His treatments are showing good results. Thanks for all prayers. ~Lynn Schmeling

Quilting Group

September 28th 10am to 12pm

Divine Intervention Volunteers Needed

Please help fill up the Friday dates as building reps for DI-SOS. It's a mere 1½ hour time commitment.

Set up approx. 4:45 pm Tear down 6:00 pm Finish 6:15 pm

I am always willing to train anyone wishing to participate in this ministry. You will be amazed at seeing 45 hot meals distributed in about 15 minutes each Friday evening! The pandemic is waning, but the effects still linger in the Bay View community.

~ Jim Wick jameswick73@gmail.com , 414-614-2612

Membership Classes

October 17th & October 31st following worship

Book Club

Sunday, October 24th, 2021 @ 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall

Topic: *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese

Crochet Class

Crochet group is up and running again. We meet the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (October 9th & 23rd, 10am to 12pm. Anyone interested in joining or learning how is more than welcomed to come on down. The time is from 10am until 12pm, with all the coffee you can drink. It doesn't matter what your age is, anyone can learn. See Ken Klockow for more information. ~Ken Klockow

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will begin in mid-October. Details to come.

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

