



"Bethlehem Girl" by Charles Verlat, 1876.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Matthew Lawrenz, Musician
www.uccmke.org

In this nineteenth Sunday after the Pentecost event, we make our last lap in our Emerge sermon series – with an exploration of scriptures which have to deal with the theme of “return” to Godly ways. This week we explore love of neighbor. In the Old Testament story from 2 Kings, God uses a little foreign servant girl and a slave to deliver a word of salvation and healing to the proud Syrian Commander, Naaman. He is “healed” in more ways than one. In the Gospel lesson from Matthew 15, a Canaanite woman with a demon-possessed daughter approaches Jesus for help. Although Jesus at first rejects her request because of her background, her relentless persistence opens his eyes and he changes. Even Christ himself can change his ways! In both stories, it is the powerless (children, foreigners, others) rather than the powerful that deliver powerful messages of eye-opening truth and change. During this highly divided time in American history, these stories inspire us to be open to the voices of the powerless and to fight for them like Christ would.

Prelude

Intermezzo

Willan

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light. Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word. Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert’s burning sand. From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.**
- 3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

Opening Litany

UCC Worship Ways

Leader: Gather at the mountain of God’s holiness.

People: Today is a day to celebrate God.

Leader: Gather aware of those you left behind to be here.

People: Today is a day to stand in the gap between God and God’s children.

Leader: Gather to share God’s presence.

People: Today is a day of transformation for us and for God’s world.



“Healing of a Leper” by Niels Larsen Stevns.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Living God, at times you seem so distant; help us know you are near.

At times we stray; welcome us home.

Standing in your presence, we know there are other people we could be with; help us bridge the gap between your presence and the people we love.

We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Music and Words: Paul Vasile, ©2008, Paul Vasile. Permission granted by the composer for use in worship.

Old Testament 2 Kings 5:1-14



*"Naaman Bathes in the Jordan"
from Cologne, Germany.*

The book of 2 Kings continues the story where 1 Kings left off. The first two chapters complete the presentation of Elijah's prophetic ministry and then follow on with his successor Elisha's ministry. Second Kings uses the history of the kings of Judah and Israel to explain the destruction of Jerusalem to the Israelites experiencing exile in Babylon. It provides insight and understanding to how the monarchy failed and deserved judgement. In this story, the prophet Elisha heals Naaman of his leprosy. God uses several unexpected and unlikely characters as agents of God's salvation, including children and foreign slaves. It is not the powerful who are powerful in this story.

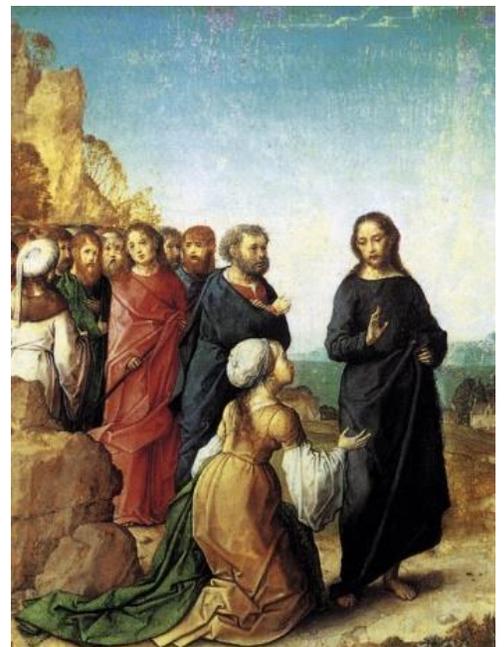
¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

New Testament Matthew 15:21-28

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of Jesus the Messiah whose genealogy and miraculous birth are a sign that he is Emmanuel: "God with us." Matthew has a particular interest in Jesus' authority as teacher and healer. In this passage, Jesus and the disciples are approached by a Canaanite woman from a different background than them. She would have been ethnically and religiously different from Jesus and his friends. Although Jesus turns down her request at first and says he has come "only to serve the lost sheep of Israel," her faith leads to his change of heart. Jesus is healed of his nationalism.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all.



"The Canaanite Woman" by Juan de Flandes.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Sermon

Emerge: Love of the Powerless

Rev. Dan Stark

Song of Response

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them. Refrain.**
- 2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near us and far away. Refrain.**
- 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love, all these are neighbors to us and you. Refrain.**
- 4. Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live with you. Refrain.**

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:

~Renolle Volz as she recovers from last week's surgery.

~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles who recently found out she has an early stage of Breast Cancer.

~Kim, friend of Mary Ann Mowery who had been hospitalized from May thru August. Now after being home for a few weeks she has been hospitalized again.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who just received the news that she only has a couple months to live from Lung Cancer. She will be entering hospice soon.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck as Joe has been able to return home now from the hospital. Prayers for continued healing.

~Linda who resides in Connecticut, daughter of Jackie Struck who is getting wound care for bed sores she got while at in house rehab from surgery.

Prayers for continued healing.

~The person who lost her home to the city and bank. This was received in our outdoor prayer box.

~Dawn, daughter in-law of Laurel and wife of Brad Dayton, as she has health issues from complications of Diabetes.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who was released from the hospital is at home with Nancy awaiting Liver and Kidney transplants. She is doing well.

~Nick, Brad and Nancy Charles nephew, who is battling heroin addiction, is out of prison and battling the difficult transition back into "normal life". Prayers for his family as well.

~Family of Ken and Sue who live in California close to where the fires are happening as they are getting closer to them.

~Julene Flanagan's nephew who is dealing with Bipolar disorder and now out of the hospital struggling to get into a healthy daily routine.

~Julene Flanagan's husbands uncle from Alaska who is suffering from Kidney Disease and is now in assisted living and for his son who is going thru health issues as well.

Prayer Song *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

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.

Closing Song

As A Fire Is Meant For Burning

1. As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame, so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care, we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

2. We are learners, we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the ways. We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay. By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

3. As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed, so may we be signs of oneness 'mid the earth's peoples, many hued. As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone, may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

Litany of Sending and Blessing

Mary Luti

Our worship has ended, but its gifts remain:
Tuck its praise inside you.
Take its goodness with you.
Drink from its wells of lasting peace.
Live by its light, its courage and grace
And don't be afraid.
Seek to serve.
In plenty of in want,
Find ways to share.
Discern the truth and tell it,

Resist all wrong, and don't be afraid.
Regard all people as your people.
In hard times and good
Take care of yourself,
Take care of your people,
And don't be afraid.
And may the blessing of God, our life,
the friendship of Christ, our healer, and
the daring of the Spirit, our truth, be
ours today, and every day to come.
Amen.

Postlude

Finale Jubilante

Willan

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Happy Birthday to these wonderful folks!

Gilbert Gwinn October 12
Andrew Vail October 13
Andy Behling October 15
Todd Hansen October 15
Mike Behling October 16
Brian O'Brien October 16
Brooke O'Brien October 16
Marilyn Rasch October 16
Helene Rondorf October 16

Thanks

We accept with thanks and gratitude a donation made to our Christ Church Sunday School in memory of Ruth Poth Spranger.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 3207.

We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place. Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

