



*Painting in Orange and Blue by Alexander Ant*

# **Christ Church** **UNITED CHURCH** **OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz  
Pam Kothrade, Song Leader  
Nancy Charles, Soloist

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)  
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On this second Sunday after Pentecost and first service together in person since November, we begin a summer series about things that people often think are in the Bible – but actually aren't. As Christians living during an unprecedented time of disinformation and alternative narratives, it is important for us to discern whether turns of phrase that inform the way we think and talk about God are biblical or not. *For the Bible Tells Me So* will explore sayings and turns of phrase that are ascribed to Bible verses in order that we might be much more biblically grounded in our everyday lives. In today's lesson, we explore the idea that "God never gives you more than you can handle" by looking at Matthew 11:16-19. Does the Bible really say that? Let's find out together. Jesus' yoke is easy, and his burden is light, but life is hard and our troubles can be very heavy.

**Prelude** *Celtic Hymn* Stamm

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song** *Gather Us In* Hymn 649

**Opening Litany**

One: Jesus loves me yes I know,

**All: for the Bible tells me so.**

One: Little ones to him belong,

**All: they are weak but he is strong,**

One: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,

**All: yes, Jesus loves me,**

One: ...the Bible tells me so? Does it *really*?

**Opening Prayer**

One: Gracious God, you love us. And we know you do. We all have heard your Good Book in one way shape or form, but sometimes we lose track of what's really in it. Help us to discern what we think we know from what we don't. And help us to dig much deeper into your Word this summer as we journey together through the scriptures today. Be with us during this time of worship – as we listen, pray, read, give, commune, and play. I ask this in your many names, Amen.

**The Gloria**

*Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile*

**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.**

**Solo**

*Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*

Soloist: Nancy Charles

**Old Testament**

Genesis 28:10-19a (The Message)

Jacob is tired. He falls asleep on a rock and dreams of a ladder to the heavens. This is where the phrase "Jacob's Ladder" comes from.

<sup>10-12</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and went to Haran. He came to a certain place and camped for the night since the sun had set. He took one of the stones there, set it under his head and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground and it reached all the way to the sky; angels of God were going up and going down on it. <sup>13-15</sup> Then God was right before him, saying, "I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I'm giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the Earth; they'll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your

descendants. Yes. I'll stay with you, I'll protect you wherever you go, and I'll bring you back to this very ground. I'll stick with you until I've done everything I promised you." 16-17 Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place—truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven." 18-19 Jacob was up first thing in the morning. He took the stone he had used for his pillow and stood it up as a memorial pillar and poured oil over it. He christened the place Bethel (God's House).

## **New Testament**

Matthew 11:25-30

The people are weary. He will share their burden and yoke them to himself. Jesus calls them to find rest in him.

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

## **Sermon**

*For the Bible Tells Me So: More Than You Can Handle*

Rev. Daniel Stark

## **Sermon Response**

*Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

Hymn 655

## **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:

- ~Barb W, "for safe travels to and from my daughter's home in Lexington, Kentucky this weekend. Five of us are driving down from Wisconsin. It will be the first time my family (all nine of us, plus my grand-dog) will be together since 2019! I'm especially excited to see my two grandsons."
- ~Brian M, who has pneumonia.
- ~Dan V, who has surgery for malignant melanoma this week.
- ~Joan B, who is coping with spinal stenosis.
- ~Joyce N, who lost her house in a fire. She is okay and currently staying with her cousin.
- ~Laurel D, who continues to recover from surgery on her broken wrist.
- ~Mark P – Thanks for all the prayers, they do work. [Hip] Surgery went "great" and all looks good. Please pray for his continued recovery.
- ~Betty B, who continues healing at home and is receiving minimal daily care. Additionally, prayers for Betty as her macular degeneration is progressing.
- ~Ken and Susie K. as Ken recovers from recent surgery. Prayers for healing.
- ~Dean M. as he continues to recover from surgery for a ruptured Achilles tendon. This is a challenging time for him as he will be inactive for several more weeks.
- ~Andrew, cousin of Pastor Dan, as he is hospitalized for a recent heart attack.
- ~Prayers of thanksgiving for Jack and his family. Jack now has a date of June 1st for bone marrow transplant. Continued prayers for healing and strength for their entire family as two of their children help with their autistic brother while their father continues through the treatments for leukemia. ~Dick and Joan G
- ~Kim and her husband, friends of Mary Ann M., who has multiple medical issues and is hospitalized again.
- ~Carl, son-in-law of Ken & Sue K., as he continues being treated for liver and colorectal cancer.
- ~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 7 months.

- ~lan, that continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal.
  - ~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a “routine” heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.
  - ~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.
  - ~Kathy, Ken’s sister who was moved to hospice at a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.
  - ~Susie K’s Aunt Evelyn, who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.
  - ~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.
  - ~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe’s medical issues.
  - ~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.
  - ~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.
  - ~Continued prayers for Julene F’s nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.
  - ~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.
- Community - From our outdoor prayer box.
- ~”I have my home back!”
  - ~ “Financial Worries to Cease, Thank You”

**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.**

**Prayer Song**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Hymn 473 v2

**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**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Romans 7:15-25 (The Message)**

One: I know that all God’s commands are spiritual,

**All: But I’m not. I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. I decide to do good, but I don’t really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. I truly delight in God’s commands, but the power of sin sabotages my best intentions. My decisions to do good don’t result in actions: Sin is there to trip me up. I’ve tried everything ... Who can help me?**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Susan A.Blain

One: The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does help us. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. He calls us: Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened. I will share your yoke and make it light; I will lead in the Way you desire to travel.

## Communion

### Invitation to Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**In joy we give our thanks and praise!**

And so, with your people on Earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise your name in this unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

### The Story

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

### Closing Song

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

Hymn 469

### Sending

One: Jesus loves me yes I know,

**All: for the Bible tells me so.**

One: Little ones to him belong,

**All: they are weak but he is strong,**

One: Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,

**All: yes, Jesus loves me,**

One: ...the Bible *definitely* tells us so! Amen!

### Postlude

*Allegria*

Stamm

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways*

## Announcement

Please join us for a special coffee hour with light brunch outside the Lenox St entrance after worship today.

## Thank Yous

Thank you everyone for your thoughts and prayers. My tumor has not grown in 6 months. My next MRI isn't for another 12 months. I am so incredibly grateful. Thank you, Christ Church and thanks be to God! ~Pam Kothrade

Dear Christ Church Family,  
Mike and I would like to say how humbled and grateful we are to have received your generous outpouring of gifts, cards, messages of appreciation and good wishes for our retirement. We were blessed to have been part of the Christ Church community for the spiritual guidance, opportunities, growth, and friendships it provided to us during our 35 years of membership. While we begin another part of our journey of life we will take many fond memories with us and keep them close to our hearts.

With love and appreciation, Mike and Debbie Behling

## Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

6/6 – Julene Flanagan

6/8 – Joan Billstrom

6/9 – Joshua Ziemann

6/11 – Sandy Miksic

6/11 – Jerome Zasada

6/12 – Ruth Boretsky

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).  
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You can make your offering to Christ Church at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

