

Outline of Worship October 25th, 2026

Worship leaders: Joint Worship Team Pianist: Lori at SUC

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – *projected*

WELCOME

SUC-Pat

CREATE SACRED SPACE

NUC-Judy

We gather today in this time of worship to pause ... to listen ... to speak ... to sing ... to reflect ... to pray. We're here together, because as people of faith, we're called into community. We share community with one another and with the complex web of life that exists on this planet.

With gratitude and wonder, we light these candles, reminding us that life is sacred, and that all belong. *PAUSE*

SONG: MV127 I Saw the Rich Ones vs 1-3

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I saw the rich ones I saw what they gave
the widow who offered two pennies she'd
saved
and I saw she was smiling I knew she was glad
and I wondered because she gave all that she
had.

*But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are
found.*

*Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God
loving you and me.*

*But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are
found.*

*Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God
loving you and me.*

The men in the vineyards were grumbling one
day
I knew they weren't happy with what they'd
been paid
for the ones who came later were paid just the
same
as the workers who greeted the dawn when
they came.

*But with God the world is turned upside down
the poor are embraced and the lost they are
found.*

*Let's work for a world where all people are free
where it's good to feel good about God
loving you and me.*

I saw Zacheus, a sinner they said
but to his house I saw Jesus go to break bread
and I knew something special had happened
that day
when Zacheus gave half of his riches away.

OFFERING: LIFE AND WORK of our churches and communities

Judy/Pat

OFFERING: FINANCIAL GIFTS

SUC-Pat

INVITATION:

In God's economy, fairness is shown in unbelievable generosity that we can only hope to practice in our lives. We are invited to give as we are able at this time.

SONG: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Words and music copyright © 2005 Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy www.paulrumbolt.com Arrangement copyright © Alan C. Whitmore

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. X2

PRAYER: Loving God, accept these gifts as thanksgiving for our many blessings. Accept these gifts as our commitment to your kingdom. Accept these gifts and accept our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

MOMENT TO PONDER

NUC-Roxanne

Loving God, many voices outside us tell us what is worthy, and voices within us name what is desirable. God's understanding of fairness and generosity might initially seem unfair. How might God be encouraging us to expand our concepts of who is deserving? Take a moment to ponder . . .

GIFT OF MUSIC – Eastman Men's Choir

The Wonder of It All
O Come, Let Us Sing
Soon & Very Soon

SPIRITUAL READINGS:

Intro to Matthew 20

SUC-Dennis Chambers

Today we hear the parable of the workers in the vineyard. It is a really difficult parable for most people. At the end of it, when each workers gets paid the same wage, regardless of how long they worked, we want to yell out: "That's not fair!" And that's what some of the workers did. They grumbled against their employer and said: "These men who were hired last worked only one hour, while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun-yet you paid them the same as us!"

This parable raises interesting questions such as : What's fair in God's economy? What would our society look like if it was based on this parable? What should we be doing as Christians to bring about the Kin-dom of heaven on earth? What is the role of the church in this? What is the role of us as individuals?

The workers talked about what is fair. The owner of the vineyard spoke about generosity. Let's listen to this parable with fresh ears.

Matthew 20:1-16

NUC-Judith Hinton

The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard.

About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work and said to them, "You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair" At that they left.

Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. Finally, going out late in the afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?”

“No one has hired us” they replied. The owner said, “You go to my vineyard, too” When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, “Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.” When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage.

There upon they complained to the owner, “This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.”

“My friends,” said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, “I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? Or are you envious because I am generous?” “Thus, the last will be first and first will be last.”

Contemporary “Quid Pro Quo” by Steve Garnaas-Holmes *(based on Matthew 20:14-15)*

SUC-Dennis Chambers

There is no such thing as deserving. None.

No one is owed anything.

One’s work, behavior, virtue or sin is irrelevant.

God loves each of us the same—infininitely—according to God’s love, not our “deserving.”

God is free from our past:

God’s love isn’t determined by what we’ve done.

Do you fear

that God doesn’t really forgive, doesn’t just plain love,

but demands some kind of transaction,

some making up for something,

some reward or punishment, some quid pro quo.

Listen: Everybody gets God’s love, everybody the same.

Listen to your heart when I say that.

Everybody gets God’s love just the same.

Everybody.

What in you wants to say, “But....”?

Is that God’s voice.. or something else?

Why do you fight against the infinity of God’s love?

What is the fear, the hurt you hang onto?

What if you were to let go, and let God love?

What if there is no deserving, but only giving and receiving?

What if you are one of those who is given way more than you earned?

Will you fuss... or just say thanks?

REFLECTION: “Generosity”

SUC-Gay

SONG: MV12 Come Touch Our Hearts vs 1,3

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Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,

from failing embers build a blazing fire;

love strong enough to overturn injustice,

to seek a world more gracious,

come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,

set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;

help us to open doors of understanding,

to welcome truth and wisdom,

come touch and bless our minds.

GIFT OF MUSIC – Eastman Men's Choir

Lower Light

Nothin' Gonna Stumble

How Can I Keep From Singing?

MINUTE FOR MISSION-VIDEO

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NUC-Roxanne

O God, you call us to be generous, but we often find our faith lacking. When asked to take risks, we often take the easy way out. And when unfair things happen to other people, we are often too timid to speak out. But you are the God of justice and compassion; you are to be trusted! Lead us forward even when the way seems unknown.

O God of risk and adventure – help us all to take risks in your name. Help us to dream and to do, to plan and to execute, to start and to finish, secure in the knowledge that from you comes the power that we need.

God of love and mercy, we remember before you today nations and communities with cause to despair: we hold before you those countries at war; and those which are divided and living in conflict...

We remember before you: the oppressed and the persecuted, the poor and the needy; especially those who live on the streets in the cities of our land and lands beyond our borders.

We remember those who are discriminated against; and communities where law and order, morality and respect have broken down.

As a community and family of faith, we remember those who grieve, those who are sick, those with chronic illness, and those who are entering hospital.

We ask you to hear all our prayers, O God, as we sing the prayer that Jesus taught . . .

The Prayer Jesus taught” West Indian Version

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Our Father who art in heaven

Hallowed be your name;

Your Kingdom come, you will be done.

Hallowed be your name.

And lead us not into temptation;

Hallowed be your name;

But deliver us from all evil.

Hallowed be your name.

As in heaven so on the earth;

Hallowed be your name;

Give us this day our daily bread.

Hallowed be your name.

For Thine is the Kingdom, power and glory;

Hallowed be your name.

Forever and forever and ever

Hallowed be your name.

And forgive us God

All our debts;

Hallowed be your name;

As we forgive all our debtors;

Hallowed be your name

Amen, Amen, it shall be so;

Hallowed be your name.

Amen, amen it shall be so

Hallowed be your name

SONG: MV169 When Hands Reach Out vs 1-3

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When hands reach out beyond divides and
hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of
peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away and bells of
peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps and days
of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts
will heal as one,

our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts
will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more, a
neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for
love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round, for
love will set us free.

BLESSING

SUC-Linda

Go out in this new week, nourished by the grace of God. May God's love sustain us through the challenges we face and inspire us through the blessings we encounter.
In the name of the Holy One. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING – Eastman Men's Choir