

Flowers given by Nancy Taylor, in honor of July birthdays

PRELUDE

Meditation

Arthur Foote

OPENING WORDS

*OPENING HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#23

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgement given.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate Creator, Your ways both comfort and confound us. Your presence both inspires our faith and evokes countless questions. Deep in our souls we long to care for those we encounter on life's road. Yet, we know there are people who push our buttons. We have experiences with people who seem to delight in speaking words that hurt and harm. We are unsure if we have the resources to reach out; whether it is safe; whether we have the courage. As we hear the familiar words of the Good Samaritan parable, open our sacred imaginations meeting us in our lives. Meet us in our stories where we have been *both* the helper and the wounded one in the ditch. Meet us in the messiness of our lives where there are times we would rather pass by on the other side. In the stillness of this moment, open space in our hearts, souls, and lives to receive Your wisdom today.

Silent prayer.

God of grace and glory, on Your people pour Your power for the facing and living of this hour and every hour this week. In the name of the One whose stories still challenge us in new ways no matter how many times we hear them, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

How Can I Say Thanks

#14

**How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet You gave to prove Your love for me;
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.**

**To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things You have done.
With Your blood You have saved me; with Your power You have raised me;
To God be the glory for the things You have done.**

**Just let me live my life – let it be pleasing unto You;
And if I gain any praise, let it go to glorify You.
With Your blood You have saved me; with Your power You have raised me;**

To God be the glory for the things You have done.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON

ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

PASTORAL PRAYER/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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

They Asked, “Who’s My Neighbor?”

#541

They asked, “Who’s my neighbor and whom should I love; for whom should I do a good deed?” Then Jesus related a story and said, “It’s anyone who has a need, yes, anyone who has a need.”

There once was a traveler set on by thieves who beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Levite each saw him in pain; but they turned away and walked by, yes, they turned away and walked by.

A certain Samaritan then came along to bind up his wounds and give aid; he took him to stay at an inn until well, and for all the service he paid, yes, for all the service he paid.

I know who’s my neighbor and whom I should love, for whom I should do a good deed; For Jesus made clear in the story he told, it’s anyone who has a need, yes, anyone who has a need.

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C

Arthur Foote