

BERN REFORMED UCC - SEPTEMBER 8 ,2024



PRELUDE: "Day By Day"

-Broughton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROVERBS 22:2, 8-9, 22-23 ²The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. ⁸Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. ²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37 Jesus set out and went away to the region of **Tyre**. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little **daughter had an unclean spirit** immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a **Gentile, of Syrophenician origin**. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of **Tyre**, and went by way of **Sidon** towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 125

LEADER: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

PEOPLE: The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

LEADER: As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

PEOPLE: Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.

THE HYMNAL # 406 "IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST"

**1 In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north,
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord, close binding humankind.**

**3 Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

**4 In Christ now meet both east & west, in Him meet south & north:
All loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

EPISTLE: James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and **become judges** with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.**" But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SERMON: "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself"

CHOIR ANTHEM: "A Community of Faith"

-Martin

PRAYER: "Setting aside our agenda!"

Thank you, Lord, that you love us despite all of our faults and issues. We ask that you help us to love our neighbors with that same kind of love that you extend towards us. Help us to see our neighbors through Your eyes. Show us practical ways that we can show them the love of Jesus who purely revealed Your love and demonstrated how humankind can display Your love despite our differing opinions. Help us to set aside our agenda Lord, and to simply love them as You love them.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

NEW CENTURY HYMN #547 "AMAZING GRACE"

- 1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that sav'd a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears reliev'd; How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believ'd!**
- 3. Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
- 4. My God has promis'd good to me, whose word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**
- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "A Trumpet Call"

- Scarlatti

Attendance Last week 50