

***Welcome To Worship***  
Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church  
September 17, 2023 ~ 9:30 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Randy Loy

CALL TO WORSHIP: Randy Loy

God the Father, today we gather to glorify you and to learn about you. To experience connection with you and to relish the grace that you have bestowed upon us.

**Lord Jesus Christ, today we also assemble to bring you glory. To honor the sacrificial gift that you are for us. To welcome you as our Savior with loving hearts.**

Holy and powerful Spirit of God, likewise we gather to glorify you and invite you to dwell within us so that we may experience the spiritual gifts you offer and serve well within God's kingdom.

**Great God of the Trinity, may this time of worship and praise be a wonderful and enriching moment in our lifelong journeys in faith. And may we always remember that you are the true God who loves each of us individually and without fail. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Randy Loy

\*HYMN: "God of Grace and God of Glory" Hymnal 577

God of grace and God of glory,  
on the people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story,  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

PASTORS GREETING: Pastor Jeff

PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURE: Rene Ciampaglia  
**Matthew 25: 14-30**

**The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup> ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: “You Can’t Take It With You” Pastor Jeff

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Ava Maria” Teresa Hearl Accompanied by Mike Ciampaglia

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Pastor Jeff

\*OFFERING WITH OFFERTORY PRAISE

Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Randy Loy

**Heavenly Father, as the rains fall from heaven to bless the earth and bring nourishment and growth, your blessings also fall from heaven to provide for us and to build up your earthly kingdom. May the offering that we lift up to you today, from what you have given us, be used as you direct. So that we may honor you with its use, and provide for the spiritual and other needs, of those whom you've called us as a congregation to minister to. In the name of Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN: "Blessed Assurance" Hymnal 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

BENEDICTION: Pastor Jeff