



Why Money, Power, and Success Can Leave Us Feeling Empty

Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

Our sermon series for June and July is entitled, “Didn’t See It Coming.” With COVID-19 keeping us closer to home, we’re going to spend some time looking inward. The topics will include things like cynicism, compromise (in a not-so-good way), and disconnection. Hopefully these topics will hit home and provide some guidance for our daily lives. We’re confident that, with help from God and some effort on our part, we can change course. The goal is to live the thoughtful, purposeful lives that God intends for us.

This week we wrap up our sermon series “Didn’t See It Coming”. We have talked about some of the challenges that creep into our lives and keep us from being the people God created us to be. Things like cynicism, loneliness, pride, and burnout all contribute to a less than stellar existence. Often when we feel some of these things we turn to things like achievement, money, and power to fill the longing we have. Though these things can be short-term boosts, they ultimately can leave us feeling empty. Ecclesiastes offers us a glimpse of these pursuits through the eyes of wise King Solomon; and points us to where our pursuits should be aimed.

Worship will continue to be streamed online. It will also be broadcast on the radio at 1520AM. You’re invited to Wednesday Worship online at 6:15pm. We will be taking a break from Wednesday Worship in August, but will return digitally this fall in a new way.

GATHERING MUSIC

ADORO TE DEVOTE (THEE WE ADORE, O SAVIOR)

ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

MELANIE, AIDEN, CASSIDY TSCHIDA, MAIKA SUZUKI, HANDBELLS; KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

*As you prepare your heart for worship during the gathering music,
you are invited to pray:*

Loving God, help me to seek and find joy in you and the world you love. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

JOYCE RUPP

L: Consoling God,
be a source of serenity for me
**C: when struggles and difficulties
threaten to overwhelm me.**

L: God of hope,
assure me of your unconditional love
**C: when I doubt myself
or question the worth of my life.**

L: Truth-bringing God,
encourage me to embrace you
**C: during those times when I get lost
in the lies of my weakness.**

L: Compassionate God,
hold me to your heart
**C: when I feel helpless
in the face of the world's pain.**

L: Light-filled God,
keep me ever close to you
**C: during those moments
when bleakness surrounds my life.**

L: Comforting God,
shelter me under your wings
**C: when I am engulfed in sadness
and overcome with distress.**

L: God of peace,
you are the center of my life,
**C: a strong refuge of peace
In the whirlwind of my pain.
I look to you for strength
and a constant assurance of hope.
Amen.**

HYMN

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

**This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

This is my Father's world;
 the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
 declare their maker's praise.
 This is my Father's world;
 he shines in all that's fair.
 In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
 he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world;
 oh, let me not forget
 that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
 God is the ruler yet.
 This is my Father's world;
 why should my heart be sad?
 The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
 God reigns, let earth be glad!

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

RICHARD BRUXVOORT-COLLIGAN



Hid-den with Christ, hid - den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.



Hid-den with Christ, hid-den with Christ, all of us deep with-in God's heart.

*end here
last time*



We are the wit - nes - ses of gos - pel pos - si - bil - it - y,
 Called from our wan - der - ing, and claimed — with our his - tor - y,



lov - ing the world, liv - ing in mys - ter - y.
 voice of our home, whis - per of mys - ter - y.

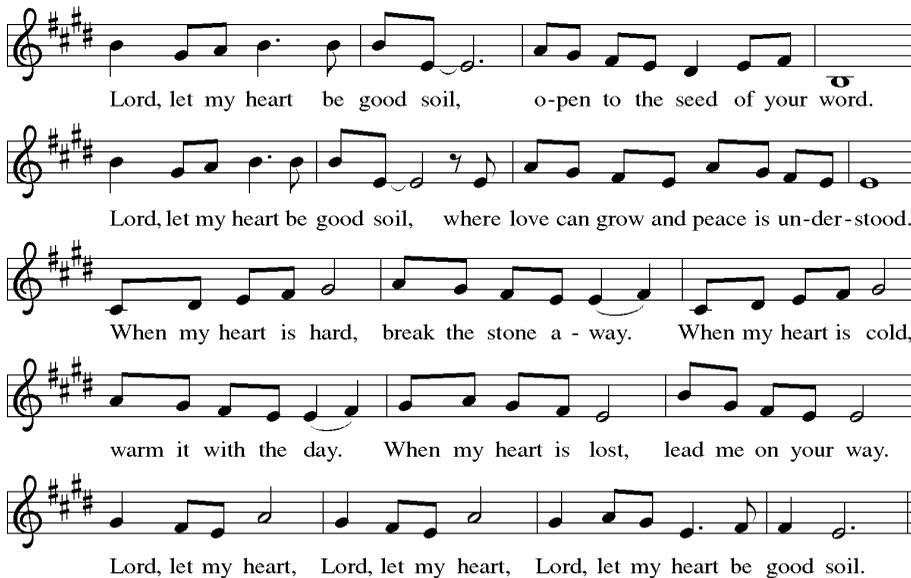
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Life-giving God,

C: we have learned over the last few months that life is more than success, or money, or power. All of these are fleeting endeavors. In these times when much feels beyond our control, draw us to the deep hope and joy you provide in all times and all seasons. When we are empty, you fill us. When we are weary, you support us. When we are caught off guard, you are our strength. Call us to these truths again and again, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

BIBLE READING

ECCLESIASTES 2:1-11 NRSV

I said to myself, “Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But again, this also was vanity. ² I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” ³ I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine—my mind still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, until I might see what was good for mortals to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴ I made great works; I built houses and planted vineyards for myself; ⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house; I also had great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. ⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and of the provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and delights of the flesh, and many concubines.

⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰ Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun..”

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

WHY MONEY, POWER, AND SUCCESS
CAN LEAVE US FEELING EMPTY

PASTOR JASON BRYAN-WEGNER

HYMN

BORNING CRY



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM – ARLO JOEL PEHOSKI

Child of Alysson and Joel Pehoski; big sister Ingrid

Sponsors: Nicky and Jimmy Mase

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

JENNY KRUSE, SOLOIST

RICHARD SHEPHARD

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
–He made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

After each petition the congregation responds:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, draw us close to you and teach us to pray:

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."**

BLESSING

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

KINGSFOLD (COME, JOIN THE DANCE OF TRINITY)

ARR. ANNE KRENTZ ORGAN

MELANIE, AIDEN, CASSIDY TSCHIDA, MAIKA SUZUKI, HANDBELLS; KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

Congratulations to:

Corine Carlson and David Mensing. They were married July 17 in Highlandville, Iowa

Prayers for Healing:

Jerry Alborn, Donna Hanson, Karen Jensen, Curt Johnson

Sympathy to:

Kristy (Bob) Giere, Erika Giere, Alysson (Joel) Pehoski, and family on the death of their mother/grandmother, Ardis Witte. Family visitation will be Saturday, Aug. 1, 11am-1pm at Ranfranz & Vine Funeral Homes, 5421 Royal Place NW, Rochester. Ardis' celebration of life service will begin at 1pm in the chapel. Limited in-person seating will be available, with overflow seating offered outside the chapel. Social distancing will be practiced and masks are required. The service will be live-streamed on Facebook.com/Ranfranz and Vine

Lois Johnson on the death of her husband, Lowell Johnson.

Rob (Rebecca) Nesse on the death of his father, Arthur Nesse.

The family of Joyce Anderson. Her graveside service was held July 25 at Grandview Memorial Gardens.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

PROCLAIMER-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Jen Gruendler; **LECTOR**-Stephanie Kiefer;

PIANIST-Kristy Giere; **SONGLEADER/SOLOIST**-Jenny Kruse; **HANDBELLS**- Melanie, Aiden, Cassidy Tschida, Maika Suzuki

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