

**Ephraim Moravian Church**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
November 8th, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

**“Après un Rêve” – by Gabriel Faure**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: *May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!” - Psalm 70:4*

**Hymn #544 (v. 1,2, 4): “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”**

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, praising you eternally!

Mortals join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began  
God’s own love is reigning o’er us, joining people hand in hand  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life!

Prayers of the Church / The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Lessons: 1 Thessalonians 4: 9-18  
Matthew 25: 1-13

**“Wake Up, Wake Up, I Hear a Voice” – Chorale Prelude, by J.S. Bach**

Reflection

Meditation

**“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” – Arranged by Mark Hayes**

*The Lord’s Supper*

Breaking of the Bread (Silent prayer after we partake together)

**Hymn (p. 199): “You Are the Bread of Life”**

You are the bread of life, O Lord, to me; your holy Word the truth that rescues me  
Give me to eat and live with you above; teach me to love your truth, for you are love!

Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as when you blessed the bread by Galilee  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in All!

The Cup of Salvation (Silent prayer after we partake together)

Hymn #619: “God of All”

God of all, whose love surrounds us, praise we bring you joyfully  
One in heart and one in purpose, one in Christian love to be  
Lord, awake us to the vision of a world redeemed and free!

Let us then our service render, witnessing your love for all  
Toiling with unceasing fervor, swift to venture at your call  
Make us in your strength victorious with our Christ, the Lord of all!

Pastor: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death  
Congregation: *Until he comes!*

Benediction

“Die ihr Schwebet” – by Johannes Brahms

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Reflection – by Rev. Cory Kemp

My experience with airline travel has taught me many lessons that I’ve compacted into this simple wisdom: Plan ahead and follow through. This mainly applies to that crucial time after check-in and before take-off. I always go straight to my gate and confirm my flight. Then I locate the nearest restroom. Finally, I find coffee, a snack and, sometimes, a magazine. Heading back to my gate with my goodies, I settle in for a relaxed nibble and read before boarding. I don’t control when the plane will arrive or what time it will take off, but I have done everything I know to do to be ready when it does.

Experience is often the best teacher, providing both immediate and long-term results. Unfortunately, these kinds of lessons don’t hold the same power for others who may be going through similar experiences. You need to figure these kinds of thing out on your own in your own way and time. Sometimes it is the hard way.

Today’s Gospel lesson may feel a bit harsh on first reading. Ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom to show up doze off for a bit before he is sighted on the road. Half the young women are up, lamps lit and ready to greet him; the other half are so low on lamp oil they are asking their sisters for some, but are told no. However, they are also directed back to the dealers to purchase more so they too can greet the bridegroom and attend the wedding. The prepared ladies offered their best solution, the one that they had put in motion before leaving on their journey. It’s good advice, but time runs out. The wedding had started without them, the doors were shut and no more guests were allowed in.

Keeping watch, planning for what you can. and following through on what you know, will not control an outcome, but it will prepare you to meet the situation as best you can. You and I don’t control God’s activity nor any other human being’s choices. A wise woman who mentored me in my faith once reminded me that we must each work out our own salvation. No one else can tell you how, but can only offer their own best advice. It is ultimately your decision how you want to meet God at the given time.

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe  
Music Director..... Colin Welford  
Lay Reader..... Karen Ekberg  
Guest Musicians.....Betty Lewis & Cyndy Stiehl