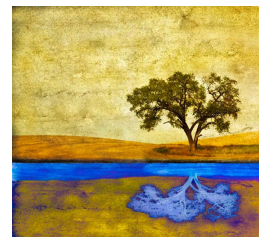


Boulevard United Methodist Church



"Taken as a whole, the psalm serves as an invitation to the entire psalter, holding before the community of faith -- and not just the individual -- the hope and promise that blessings will come from delighting in the instruction of the Lord."

- W.C. Bouzard

September 23, 2018

boulevardumc@gmail.com
PO Box 14507 Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 840-1921

18th Sunday after Pentecost
4:00 pm at Fox Elementary

Greeting

Rev. Drew Willson

Opening Words

Little children, the one who welcomes you
is here in word and bread and wine.
Little children, young and old, all the baptized:
Welcome to this place.

Hymn

Time with Children

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Psalter

Psalms I

Gospel Lesson

Mark 9:30-37

Music

Just Ask the Children

Sermon

Rev. Rachel G. May

Hymn

Offering Tithes & Gifts

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

Dismissal with Blessing

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God...

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus...

And so,

in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us, and pour out your Spirit on these gifts...

THE 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 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER

NURTURE

caring for one another and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for those grieving the loss of Dot Hechler, Nancy Tate, and Susan Hageman. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH for infants - 5 year olds begins after the children's moment (approximately 4:15). Guardians are asked to walk children to Ms. LaRonda at the end of the hallway. They rejoin us for Communion.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD? Or about the Commission's reports going before General Conference 2019? Consider attending "A Way Forward: a Q&A event with Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, the Rev. Tom Berlin and Martha Stokes. The 90-minute event will be held this Wednesday September 26 at 7pm at Reveille UMC.

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

STAY TUNED for information on what is next, mission-wise. We are currently in the midst of distributing \$850 worth of love to two local schools in our community.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Three-quarters of us have grown spiritually this past year. One person has not, and the remainder are not sure either way.

The two things that we have most appreciated from this Fox Elementary School era are: (1) new musical leadership (2) weekly Holy Communion.

25% of you participate in discipleship-related activity with/through other organizations.

With 4 to 5 "leftover" hours in the workweek, you would like your pastor to lead a process for discerning a mission focus. Secondly -- it's a tie -- you would like your pastor to teach a bible study or equip a lay person to lead a book study.

75% of Boulevardians describe their approach to attending Sunday services as, "if I'm not out of town or sick, I'm there".

Over half of us are "giving what we have to give" when it comes to current level of engagement. Roughly a third of participants are up for helping to meet an existing need. A couple of folks said that they have an idea or are experiencing God calling them to lead in a different way.

The sample size was sufficient. Two-thirds of our worshipping community responded. Thank-you!



Schoolhouse Inklings

with Rev. Rachel

THEY ARE LIKE TREES - Psalm I

The light in 1837 W Broad Street is striking. [1837 is the urban storefront the people called Boulevard are fixing to occupy.] Those who were present for a worship service/preview of the place mentioned the light, time and again.

That evening, some prompts were provided to guide reflection. The responses were thoughtful. People wrote down some beautiful things.

Is God already here? How so? “God is where God’s people are.”... “Yes. We have invited God to be here.”

What do we bring here that God might delight in using? “Friendship”... “Resilience”

Reading through these, this week, I found myself wanting to scoop up the goodness and put in our soil; because, as spectacular as the light is in our new abode, much more goes into fruit bearing (v.3). We all know it.

Trees don’t make it on light alone. “Trees planted by streams of water” thrive. Or so Psalm I declares. The author seems to want us to take this image with us through the Psalter, through the Scriptures and through life. *Be trees. Be watered by the streams by which you are planted.*

Buildings cannot do what only living water can -- any more in 2018 than in the 5th century BC. I say this not to squash our enthusiasm or anyone else’s excitement with regard to a move. Hallelujah is an appropriate response when space permits rather than prohibits!

I mean only to highlight the characterization of the righteous as it comes to us through our Psalm. The righteous are like trees. They are rooted and watered and delighted by the source.

The righteous are reflective (C. Dempsey). They chew on Scripture day and night, as one translation renders it (v.2). This, then, is our work -- our light and our life -- no matter our address.

An ancient prayerbook we call the Psalter begins with the blessedness of spending time with the will and ways of God. Since the first psalm frames the one hundred and forty nine that follow, it may be an interpretive key. That you and I would walk into what lies ahead of us all tree-like with Psalm I as our jam: that’d be alright.

Psalm I

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on this law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;
They are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked is doomed.