Contemporary Worship

November 15, 2026
Time after Pentecost
Lectionary 33

Celebrating God's Abundance

This month we're celebrating God's lavish generosity!
Our sermon series, "There's a Wideness in God's Generosity," invites our faithful stewardship of the gifts of ourselves, our time, our skillful talents, and our resources as we seek to live in the abundance of God's realm here on earth. Today, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Today's Focus: As stewards of our skillful talents, we experience fulfillment as we seek God's will to create, bless, and redeem the world.

GATHERING MUSIC *Glory to God Forever* – Fee/Beeching

Before the world was made, before You spoke it to be,
You were the King of kings, yeah, You were, yeah, You were!
And now You're reigning still, enthroned above all things;
Angels and saints cry out, we join them as we sing:

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God forever.

Creator, God, You gave me breath so I could praise
Your great and matchless name all my days, all my days!
So, let my whole life be a blazing offering,
A life that shouts and sings the greatness of our King!

Take my life and let it be all for You and for Your glory.
Take my life and let it be Yours.

WELCOME

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER *

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

SONG * *Come Now Is the Time to Worship*

Chorus: Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Verse 1: One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God.
One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now…*chorus*

Verse 2: Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.
Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
We gladly choose You now…c*horus*

Ending*:* Come. Come, just as you are, come. Come.

"Come, Now Is the Time To Worship" words and music by Brian Doerksen
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HOLY GOSPEL* Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received
the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way,
the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the
one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long
time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 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.' 21 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.'

[22] 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.’ [23] 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.’ [24] 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, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid
your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26] 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?
[27] 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. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the
one with the ten talents. [29] 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. [30] As
for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.’ ”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG * *Take My Life, That I May Be*

Chorus: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 1: Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee…*chorus*

Verse 2: Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose…*chorus*

Verse 3: Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee…*chorus*

Verse 4: Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne…*chorus*

Words: Frances R. Havergal Music: WilliamDexheimer Pharris
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HOLY BAPTISM

David Joseph Kerkhoff
Samuel John Kerkhoff
Jane Katherine Kerkhoff
Parents: John & Kelli Kerkhoff
Sponsors: Scott & Natalie Chillinsky

Pastor: Today we receive David Joseph Kerkhoff, Samuel John Kerkhoff,
and Jane Katherine Kerkhoff into God's family
through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

John and Kelli, our scriptures tell us that after his birth,
Mary and Joseph went to the temple to present to God
their dearest treasure, Jesus.
Today you offer your children, David, Samuel, and Jane to God
and ask that they be received into this family of Christ
to inherit the great blessings and promises of abundant life.

On this day we gather to make promises to one another in God's presence.
God will first be known to your children by the Christ seen in your home.
And so, I ask you as sponsors, Scott & Natalie,
and you as their parents, John & Kelli,
will you teach these children by word and deed
the way of Christ and the word of God?
Will you share with them the Church's life, worship,
instruction in the Christian faith, and Holy Communion
so that they may grow to be faithful children of God?
If so, answer, "we promise."

Parents & Sponsors: We promise.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts in prayer:

O God, the giver of all new life,
look with kindness upon the Kerkhoff family.
Let them ever rejoice in the gifts you have given them.
Enable them to keep the promises they have made this day,
and strengthen them so that they may share in the gift of life
you have given to all your children.
Creator God, bless all your people that we may grow in faith
and may shine with the light of your love.

Assembly: Amen.

Pastor: We live in a world that is broken in sin,
even as we hope for the world that is to come.
The powers of evil are no strangers to us here.
We renounce them and turn our faces to the light.
Now I ask you, family and sponsors,
do you renounce the forces of evil?
If so, please answer, "we renounce them."

Parents & Sponsors: We renounce them.

Pastor: Will you open your children's eyes
that they may understand the difference between hate,
division, destruction, and the light of God's love,
unity, and peace?
If so, answer, "we will."

Parents & Sponsors: We will.

Pastor: God is love and in God there is no darkness at all.
We have been made God's people through our baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope,
we confess our faith as a congregation
using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

Water is placed on the head of those being baptized.

Pastor: David Joseph Kerkhoff, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Pastor: David, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle

Deacon: David, let your light so shine before others
that they may see the blessings you have in life and give glory to God.

Water is placed on the head of those being baptized.

Pastor: Samuel John Kerkhoff, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Pastor: Samuel, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle

Deacon: Samuel, let your light so shine before others
that they may see the blessings you have in life and give glory to God.

Water is placed on the head of those being baptized.

Pastor: Jane Katherine Kerkhoff, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Pastor: Jane, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A baptismal candle is lighted from the Paschal Candle

Deacon: Jane, let your light so shine before others
that they may see the blessings you have in life and give glory to God.

Pastor: Through baptism God has made David, Samuel, and Jane
members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus,
that we may proclaim the wonders of God
and bring a creative and redeeming word to all the World.
Let us join together in welcoming them.

Assembly: We welcome you into the Lord's family,
we receive you as members of the body of Christ,
children of the same heavenly Father,
and workers with us in the Kingdom of God.

OFFERING

My Life Is an Offering – Sczebel

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.
Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.

This life is an altar where I want to offer
My soul and my mind and strength.
Cleansed by Your mercy to live a life worthy
Of the One Who called my name.

Jesus, be glorified. Jesus, be magnified.
Let me be a pleasing sacrifice.
Jesus, be glorified. Jesus, be magnified
Here at the altar, my life is an offering.

How could I not love You?
You authored my rescue, raised me up from death to life.
Your Spirit is in me, revealing Your glory;
Oh, what joy as I give my life.

CONFESSION *

Leader: Let us come before God in a time of confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

Assembly: we confess that too often we take your blessings for granted.
We hold tightly to what we have rather than sharing generously.
We allow fear to keep us from giving, serving, and loving as you have called us.
We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Forgive us when our priorities become centered on ourselves
rather than on you and our neighbors.
Open our hearts to your grace
and renew in us generous and faithful spirits.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: Christ extends the invitation to all people to come and feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Lord, Be Glorified

Verse 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

Verse 2: In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.

Verse 3: In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

Verse 4: In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Generous God,
we give you thanks for nourishing us at this holy table
with the gift of your Son.
Filled with Christ's presence and strengthened by his grace,
send us into the world with grateful hearts and open hands.
Help us use the gifts you have entrusted to us with courage,
sharing generously with those in need,
and serving our neighbors with joy.
May our lives reflect the abundance of your love,
that all may know the goodness of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go forth,
blessed by God's abundance and strengthened by Christ's love.
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
Share generously the gifts entrusted to you, and let your lives reflect God's grace.
May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING SONG * *Send Us Out*

Send us out, send us out,
Send us out for your glory.
Let all we do be praise to you;
Send us out for your glory!

Words & Music: Matt Osgood
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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace,
sharing of yourself to make a better world for all.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in honor of their 52nd wedding anniversary tomorrow, November 16, by Kermit and Victoria Almos.

The organ flowers are given in memory of her son, Gilbert, by Karen Jenei

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