

Boulevard United Methodist Church

prayers

presence

gifts

service

witness

*Our Lord was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles but in the world, on a roadway, in a town garbage heap, at the crossroads where there were three languages written upon the Cross. Yes, they were Hebrew, Latin and Greek, but they could just as well have been English, Bantu or African. It would make no difference. He placed Himself at the very center of the world, in the midst of smut, thieves, soldiers and gamblers. He was there to extend pardon to them. **This is the vocation of the laity:** to go out into the world and make Christ known.*

Fulton J. Sheen

October 18, 2015



The flowers are given to glorify God in honor of Cooper's 2nd birthday and in memory of Dad by Mimi (Karen).

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

Order of Worship for the 21st Sunday After Pentecost

Laity Sunday

11:00 AM

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal

(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

Introit

Together We Serve

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

Down to the River to Pray

Insert

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Come and Find the Quiet Center (v.1)

TFWS 2128

Please sing while seated.

Proclamation and Response

ON PRAYER

Kylee Ponder

Come and Find the Quiet Center (v.2)

“These Four Things”

Rev. Rachel G. May

Come and Find the Quiet Center (v.3)

ON PRESENCE

Mark Suter

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

The Singer and the Song

*Doxology (94 UMH)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn

Heralds of Christ

567 UMH

*Benediction

1. Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for June Robinson, Joe Morgan and family, Jane Frisa and incarcerated residents of metropolitan Richmond. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday:

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34

Hebrews 7:23-28

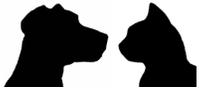
Mark 10:46-52

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

{Outward}

OCTOBER IS FOR PET FOOD. Get dollars or the food itself to Boulevard and we'll stock the shelves of those who provide for our two-legged and four-legged neighbors in need.



Kibble costs between \$100 and \$400 for premium varieties.

Canned food, on average, costs between \$400 and \$1,000 per year. **How about ten cans or one ten-pound bag of dry food or a \$10 contribution, which can feed a pet for a month?**

Elaine Kennedy and Linda Crowder are point persons for this effort. Let's make it easier rather than harder on our transporters by considering product weight and packaging! We celebrate last week's lemonade stand, which blessed us to be a blessing...to the tune of \$374.00 😊

SHERBOURNE UMC FOOD PANTRY is not our monthly mission focus but it is near and dear to us. October, November and December Items of the Month are canned harms and holiday meal fixings -- corn, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, peas, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, flour, sugar, tea bags, and items to make desserts such as brownie/cake/cookie mixes, icings, puddings. Volunteers are always needed. Aaron Bell can connect you to this ministry (and Rachel can connect you to Aaron).



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

TO OFFER GIFTS AND SACRIFICES Hebrews 6

I was at a loss for words. Somewhere between extending grace and peace and whatever was supposed to follow, I saw them. David and Tammy were in the house. This was last Sunday, an already set apart one, with Meredith at the microphone (bravo) and Hannah on the brink of her miracle. Maybe that's why I was so easily thrown off keel.

I was back in time to that place where she was my pastor and David misbehaved on the pew in front of me. There, I was a laywoman. Then, in their home, the saying hung in a small black frame: "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

Priests offer gifts. In ancient times, they offered these in acknowledgement of sin (v.1). People looked to them, the official ones, to give on their behalf (v.3). The vast majority outsourced their sacrificial giving.

At least, that was Martin Luther's interpretation. He came along and rallied the people to reclaim their membership in the body of Christ. Sounds simple enough—that this was a matter of making something undemocratic democratic, but democracy as we know it emerged *after* the 16th century upheaval in Europe.

Worshipping a constitution or freedom for freedom's sake is a relatively recent trend. Religious reformers like Luther pleaded for the laity to get serious about their discipleship and to use their freedom for good—to fulfill their baptismal vows in reverent submission (v.7) to Christ, the priest over all.

Submission carries connotations of manipulation and abuse. Neither laity nor clergy ought submit in that sense of the word. But if we are going to really offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness (and not just our opinions) then clergy and laity in shared submission to our baptisms is a must. Call it yielding.

The saying still hangs on an Eastern Shore wall. It still wants to know if I am becoming my gift to God, but it has grown bolder in its probing. *So you're clergy now.* I take a deep breath and prepare to receive the reprimand/gracious realignment. *Are your lay brothers and sisters becoming their gift?*

Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”