

25th Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023 – 10:30am

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Rev. Allison Mark

God's judgment comes in unexpected times and ways. Christ's mercy shows up through surprising people. When you are fed up and cry out for grace, keep awake, lest you fail to recognize it when it comes.

Opening Hymn* - *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" UMH 103*

Angela Gricar, Accompanist

Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-

Momo Wada

L: We lift up our eyes to you, O God,

P: longing for a glimpse of your grace.

L: We watch for you ... and wait,

P: trying to keep awake and aware,

L: trying not to fall asleep,

P: trying not to miss your presence,

L: trying not to miss our very lives.

P: Today, we come to you awake –

L: clothed in faith, decked out in love,

P: wearing hope for all to see.

L: Come and meet us here, O God,

P: in your mercy and your grace.

Opening Prayer

Momo Wada

Holy One, have mercy on us. When we cannot take any more of this world, we know we must turn to you. When our souls have had their fill of trouble and unease, we seek your protection. We come to you in faith and love, in the hope of your salvation, now and always. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Rev. Allison Mark

The Word of God for the people of God

Congregational Hymn – *“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”* TFWS 2146

Angela Gricar, Accompanist

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

Momo Wada

¹⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five valuable coins,^[a] and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

¹⁶ “After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²² “The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²⁴ “Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed.’ ²⁵ So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed?’ ²⁷ In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged

to me with interest.²⁸ Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. ²⁹Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. ³⁰Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Special Music – *"Here I Am to Worship"*

Crossroads

Sermon: ~ "Imagine the Possibilities: Magic Penny"

Rev. Allison Mark

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God's grace

Offering Our Gifts ~

Rev. Allison Mark

Consecration of 2024 Pledges

Doxology*

Angela Gricar, Accompanist

***Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Momo Wada

Gracious God, you have filled our lives with the protection of faith, the guidance of love, and the hope of a salvation without end. Take our lives, Holy One – our time, our talent, and our treasure – and use them to encourage the hopeless, to build up the broken, and to heal the wounded souls in our world. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Rev. Allison Mark

Closing Hymn* ~ *"Lead On, O King Eternal" UMH 580*

Angela Gricar, Accompanist

Commission and Blessings * -

Rev. Allison Mark

Passing of the Peace* - Postlude