

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

LUKE 16:19-31



Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff
Music Director: Terryl Dietert
Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba
Video: Richard Tremarello
Liturgist: Chuck Terlinden

September 28, 2025

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Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a “first-timer,” a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God’s Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you. **Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

You Are My All in All - Keller

Words of Welcome

*Song of Welcome

I Am Welcome (2x)

by Bryan Sirchio

I am welcome, I am welcome, I am loved, just as I am.

I am welcome, you are welcome, we are loved, just as we are.

O Spirit burn that truth into our hearts.

Call to Worship (Inspired Psalm 146)

One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!

One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

Many: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

Many: The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God who reigns forever!

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen.

Words of Grace

God's mercy endures and renews. The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being. Receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

*Opening Hymn *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above
your clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 Your life is life giving, to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish, but naught dims your power.

4 So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angles adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angles do
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Story on the Steps

"A Family of Belonging" (Genesis 12-15)

from The Book of Belonging

Words by Mariko Clark; Pictures by Rachel Eleanor

Mission Moment Mission Trip to Amazon River, Brazil Darlene Collins

Gift of Music Yes, Jesus Loves Me - arr. Akers Handbell Choir

First Reading: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 (CEB)

Jeremiah received the Lord's word in the tenth year of Judah's King Zedekiah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule. At that time, the army of the Babylonian king had surrounded Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined to the prison quarters in the palace of Judah's king. Judah's King Zedekiah had Jeremiah sent there after questioning him.

Jeremiah said, The Lord's word came to me: Your cousin Hanamel, Shallum's son, is on his way to see you; and when he arrives, he will tell you: "Buy my field in Anathoth, for by law you are next in line to purchase it." And just as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel showed up at the prison quarters and told me, "Buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you are next in line and have a family obligation to purchase it." Then I was sure this was the Lord's doing.

So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. Then I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy, with its terms and conditions, and the unsealed copy— and gave it to Baruch, Neriah's son and Mahseiah's grandson, before my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses named in the deed, as well as before all the Judeans

who were present in the prison quarters. I charged Baruch before all of them: "The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Take these documents—this sealed deed of purchase along with the unsealed one—and put them into a clay container so they will last a long time. The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

Second Reading: Luke 16:19-31 (CEB)

"There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

"The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.'

"The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father's house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don't come to this place of agony.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.' The rich man said, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.' Abraham said, 'If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

Sermon

"Hope and Lost Causes"

Rev. Tara

***Hymn of Response** *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

Hymn #623

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For recovery after surgery: **Jill U**
- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
Bonnie & Jeff J, Jerry G, Gloria H, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Dulce, Laurel, Bill, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie

Pastoral Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

May our hearts be open to the generous life. The Sovereign God invites us to participate in building the kindom through our financial resources. Let us give in gratitude and joy knowing that sharing our abundance blesses our neighbor, community, and world.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* - Gardiner

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**
Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Hope of the World* **Hymn #404**
(to tune of *O Perfect Love*)

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Benediction Song** *God Be With You* **Hymn #716**

Postlude *Fugue in C minor* - Charpentier

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, Pilgrim Press 1995 | *Common English Bible*, 2013 | *Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ | *Common English Bible*, 2013

NOTES

MISSION MINUTES | Surprising Investment_ | Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 | When my husband and I moved to our 18th-century Vermont home, complete with a charming old stone well, I couldn't resist doing what generations of farmers have done before me. I named our humble abode, "Old Stone Well Farm." My husband, though, gently pointed out that two chickens and a small garden does not make a farm. Furthermore, he inquired, why would I even want the farming life? His question comes from seeing the struggles and closures of the farms in the area. He has driven a feed truck long enough to have heard the stories of families barely making ends meet.

He is a local, rooted in reality. I, on the other hand, am an outsider who still romanticizes early morning milkings. Yes, our little village used to boast more cows than people, but I haven't given up on the dream of going beyond two chickens and adding some goats and perhaps an apple orchard.

The prophet Jeremiah bought a farm many years ago despite the warnings from all the naysayers. It wasn't really an opportune time to invest in land. There were great political conflicts between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. And to top it all off, Jeremiah was in prison for warning people what was about to befall them. It is then, Jeremiah's cousin asks the prophet to buy his farm. And so, he does.

This land deal had nothing to do with buying low and selling high. It had everything to do with hope. Jeremiah proclaimed that he is doing it because God promises that the people will come home from exile and houses and fields and vineyards will be theirs once again.

How many times have we let reality cloud the vision of hope that God still has for us? Where are the dreamers who can see the goodness of God in the most desperate of situations? Three months before his execution by the Nazis, theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote to his fiancée Maria, "When Jeremiah said, in his people's hour of direst need, that 'houses and fields and [vineyards] shall again be bought in this land,' it was a token of confidence in the future. That requires faith, and may God grant us it daily."

Yes, may God grant us such faith each day of our lives. Faith to buy the farm and live into the hope of a better tomorrow. Old Stone Well Farm has yet to become a real working farm, but that doesn't mean I have given up on the dream. If anything, I am only just beginning to envision the amazing things that can be.

God of beautiful tomorrows, help us to invest in your Kingdom. Where others see dead ends, let our eyes see the possibilities. Increase our faith and help us always to hold on to hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions	\$4,738	\$68,013
Other Income	\$103	\$41,732
Total Income	\$4,841	\$109,745
Expenses	\$13,302	\$131,580
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$118,936

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