



**"THE TEN COMMANDMENTS"
OPEN DOOR MCC
REV. MILLER HOFFMAN, PASTOR**

Gleanings from the Liturgy

August 6, 2017

Opening Words: (Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

You and your angel
are perfectly matched,
neither winning nor losing.

**It doesn't matter
with what or whom you wrestle;
you have to wrestle.**

You have to be brought
to the limit of your power
to know, beyond it, God's.

**You and God cheek to cheek,
that's when the blessing comes,
the letting go, and you limp free.**

You still have to face your troubles,
but the hard part is over.

You're already blessed.

Welcome

Bless each one who is here safely, and blessings on all who are away this week. Thank you for coming to Open Door MCC on the sixth Sunday after Pride and the first Sunday of August at the Movies!

MCC and Open Door have a special outreach to vulnerable communities and those in solidarity: Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We are and want to be community where everyone is the family of God, and where all parts of our

being are welcomed at God's table. This morning I'm grateful for each one of you.

Opening Prayer Judith Gass)

Why are you waiting to begin your life\|
Do you think the world must care and come soliciting?\|
Listen to the knocking at the door of your own heart\|
It is faint because you have not answered\|
You have fooled yourself with preparations\|
Time left laughing while you considered possibilities\|
Wake up you have slept long enough\|
Wake up tomorrow may be too late\|
When you finally dare open the door\|
Your life will begin arriving\|
Cautiously at first unbelieving that the gate\|
So long locked against the tide has finally been opened\|
Then with swells of neglected dreams\|
Then with waves of joyful revelation the sea will follow\|
You will be swept by the full and magnificent tides of\|
your own longing\|That no one else can give you\|
That no one else can claim.

Passing the Peace

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and an angel wrestled with him until daybreak. When the angel saw that they did not prevail against Jacob, they struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled. Then the angel said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So the angel said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the angel said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked, "Please tell me your name." But the angel said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there they blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.
This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 117:1-7, 15 (NRSV, Norman Fischer, trans., inclusified)

Hear the justice of my case, heed my plea
Give ear to my prayer
Uttered with lips that do not pronounce deceit

Let my sentence come forth from your presence
For you are truth-knowing, You have proven my heart
Thought of me in the long night
Refined and tempered me till nothing impure remained
And my words and intentions were straight and altogether true
Guided by your words I found in the world
All the dissolute paths
My steps trod only your byways And my foot did not slip
So I call on you now, knowing you will answer
Incline your ear toward me, hear my words
Show the wonder of your kindness
You who save those who trust you
From those who rise up against them
With your right hand...
As for me, I will encounter you in my faithfulness
I will be satisfied, filled with a quiet knowledge of you

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand families. This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Meister Eckart wrote, If the only prayer we ever say in our life is Thank You, it is enough. Thank you.

God is with you!
And also with you!
Let us open our hearts!
We open them to God.
Let us give God thanks and praise!
It is a good and joyful thing to do!

(Jan Richardson)

If this blessing were easy, anyone could claim it. As it is, I am here to tell you that it will take some work. This is the blessing that visits you in the struggling, in the wrestling, in the striving. This is the blessing that comes after you have left everything behind, after you have stepped out, after you have crossed into that realm beyond every landmark you have known.

This is the blessing that takes all night to find.

It's not that this blessing is so difficult, as if it were not filled with grace or with the love that lives in every line.

It's simply that it requires you to want it, to ask for it, to place yourself in its path. It demands that you stand to meet it when it arrives, that you stretch yourself in ways you didn't know you could move, that you agree to not give up.

So when this blessing comes, borne in the hands of the difficult angel who has chosen you, do not let go. Give yourself into its grip.

It will wound you, but I tell you there will come a day when what felt to you like limping was something more like dancing as you moved into the cadence of your new and blessed name.

Bless this meal, and make it become truly in us, with us, and through us your life-giving, life-changing, life-sustaining presence and your abiding love. Amen. PLEASE BE SEATED.

Closing Blessing (The Prophet Muhammad)

What actions are most excellent?

To gladden the heart of a human being.

To feed the hungry.

To help the afflicted.

To lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful.

To remove the wrongs of the injured.

That person is the most beloved of God who does most good to God's creatures.

Go in peace

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