

# Wesley Park United Methodist Church

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sabbath

9:30 am - October 22, 2017

## We Gather Together

Prelude

Welcome

\*Singing

**I've Got Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down In My Heart**

\*Call To Worship

One: We gather with love,  
in the name of God who loves each and every child.

**All: We gather with hope,  
as the body of Christ who is the hope of the world.**

One: We gather with justice,  
called by the Spirit whom Jesus called the Advocate.

**All: Come, let us worship on this Children's Sabbath day  
with love, hope, and justice.**

## We Receive the Word

Gift of Music, The Children of Wesley Park ***If I Had a Hammer/In the Highways***

Scripture

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked. "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

Children's Blessing

Cecile Adams

Prayer for Justice for All Children

A psalmist long ago lifted prayer and praise to God, calling God "Mighty King, Lover of Justice." Trusting that now as then God is ruler of all and a lover of justice, let us lift our prayers, responding in the way you best speak with God, "Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer."

We pray that you will help us truly be your Church by living into your upside-down reign in which the last are first and the least are lifted up.

**Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer.**

We pray for our world in which a few have so much while many are in poverty. Help us to close those gaps with justice and compassion.

**Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer.**

We pray for our nation and our leaders, at a time when it is easier to play on fears and division than work with hope and unity to achieve the change that you, O God, intend. Help us to urge our leaders to end child poverty and other injustices.

**Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer.**

We pray for our communities. We pray for those in need, especially babies and toddlers without the care they need to develop, children in poverty and parents who struggle to find work or make ends meet, young people in schools with too few resources and too low expectations.

**Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, for love that embraces all people, for hope that presses us forward in seeking justice, and faith that guides and sustains us.

**Mighty God, Lover of Justice, here is our prayer.**

These things we ask in the name of God's own beloved child, Jesus – Love incarnate, Hope of the world.

**Amen.**

Chancel Choir

Message

***At Home, Let There Be Love***

Bishop Don Ott

**We Respond to the Word**

Singing #611

**Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Offering Our Selves and Gifts to God

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

***Jewels***

\*Doxology #64

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great God, guard the laughter of children. Bring them safely through injury and illness so they may live the promises you give. Do not let us be so preoccupied with our purposes that we fail to pay attention to their special vision of the truth; but keep us ready to love, and to serve, and to act for justice for all your children, everywhere. Amen.

**We Go Forth Into the World**

\*Benediction

Go forth to be the arms of God's love for every child. Go forth to extend Christ's welcome to every child. Go forth to be a voice for justice in the power of the Spirit. May the God of love, hope, and justice be with you and each child of God this day and forevermore.

\*Singing

**Happy**

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*\*Please stand as you are able or comfortable.*