

Pastor's Welcome

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

Call to Worship (adapted from "God Welcomes All" - Glory to God Hymn #399)

One: God welcomes all,
Many: strangers and friends;
 One: God's love is strong,
Many: and it never ends.
All: Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Chuck Hedrick

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:43-48 (from The Message)

Allen Shemetulskis

You're familiar with the old written law, "Love your friend," and its unwritten companion, "Hate your enemy." I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best - the sun to warm and the rain to nourish - to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Reflecting on the Word

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Prayer Requests**Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer**

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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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song Glory to God Hymn #606

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom
 all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures
 here below;

Praise him above,
 ye heav'nly host;
 Praise Father, Son
 and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction (from Psalm 138:7-8)

One: Even when we walk in the midst of trouble,
Many: God's steadfast love endures forever.
 One: Go in peace.
All: Amen!