



**Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church**  
**September 20, 2020**  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Prelude** "The Savior is Waiting" Ralph Carmichael

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** Praise the Lord! Gather to worship and give thanks.

**P:** Lord, we gather as your faithful followers to praise you.

**L:** Let us praise God's name with dancing as we sing a new song.

**P:** Yes! We will sing a new song and make melody with tambourine and lyre.

**L:** The Lord will be glad because the Lord takes pleasure in the faithful.

**P:** We will remain faithful followers of Christ at Fisk United Methodist Church.

**Hymn** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" vs. 1 & 4 UMH 103

**Scripture Reading** Philippians 1:21-30

**Children's Time with Mrs. Carney**

**Psalter Reading** Psalm 106: 1-12

UMH 819

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, we gather this morning with different scars because we have hurt others or have been hurt by others. Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us. Help us and give us the grace to forgive ourselves because we all have sinned and have fallen short of your glory. As we worship and live, keep us grounded in the holiness that you have shown us. And make us conduits of your mercy and love. With thanksgiving for your son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 20:1-16

**Sermon** "What is Fair?"

**Prayers & Concerns**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, we bring these offerings to you. They may not be out of our first fruits but we give thanks. As we give thanks, inspire us to give to others and to understand that this is a mandate of the gospel. We dedicate our gifts and pray that they be used as a part of your message of hope for a world mired in despair. In the awesome name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen.

**Hymn** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" vs. 1 & 4 UMH 121

**Benediction**

Please join us for "Fellowship of Love Time"  
*after* the service on Zoom.

## HYMNS

### Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Im-mor-tal, in-vis-i-ble, God on-ly wise,  
in light in-ac-ces-si-ble hid from our eyes,  
most bless-ed most glo-rious, the An-cient of Days,  
al-might-y, vic-to-rious, thy great name we praise.

Thou reign-est in glo-ry; thou dwell-est in light;  
thine an-gels a-dore thee, all veil-ing their sight;  
all laud we would ren-der; O help us to see  
'tis on-ly the splen-dor of light hid-eth thee.

### There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy  
like the wide-ness of the sea;  
there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
which is more than lib-er-ty.

If our love were but more sim-ple,  
we should rest up-on God's word;  
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by  
the pres-ence of our Lord.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Philippians 1:21-30 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. <sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

## Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

<sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ <sup>7</sup> ““Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

## Psalms 106: 1-12 (UMH)

Praise the LORD.

**O Give thanks to the Lord who is good;  
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord  
or show forth all God's praise?

**Blessed are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!**

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you deliver them,

**that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory with your heritage.**

Both we and our forebears have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.

**Our forebears, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider your wonderful works;**

they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,  
but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.

**God saved them for the sake of his holy name,  
to make known the mighty power of God.**

God rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;  
and led them through the deep as through a desert.

**So God saved them from the hand of the foe,  
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.**

And the waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.

**Then they believed God's words;  
they sang God's praise.**