

“FRONT PORCH WORSHIP”

First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC

Sunday July 26, 2020, 9:00am

Bring your chairs. Wear a mask. Love with Social Distance

“The mission of First United Methodist Church

is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.”

ENTRANCE

Gathering of the People in Front of the Church, Prelude

Welcome and Silence Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister

+Greeting Trinitarian Acclamation, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord.

Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Moses spoke to the people of Israel and said,

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD;

and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,

and with all your soul, and with all your might.

And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart;

and you shall teach them diligently to your children,

and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,

and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand,

and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

+Mutual Blessing and Prayer: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray....

Testimonies to God’s Grace All Have a Voice!

How has the Lord spoken to you with week? Scripture, Answered Prayer, Call to Love

United Methodist Teaching *The Book of Discipline 2016: 73*

The Confession of Faith, Article IV: The Holy Bible

“We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.”

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

Sermon Lesson: “The Ten Commandments Given at Mt. Sinai” Exodus 19:16-20:20

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: “Ten Gifts from a Gracious God” Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

Silence with the Word of God

+Prayers of the People for the Governmental Leaders of Cheraw, Lord’s Prayer

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

+Dismissal with Blessing

Offering Theodore Burns: Usher

EXODUS 19:16-20:20
"TEN GIFTS FROM A GRACIOUS GOD"

1) 19:16-25 PREFACE TO THE COMMANDMENTS: THEOPHANY = GOD MANIFESTED

3 Months Out Of Egypt

a) vv.16-19 Manifestations Of Deity (Sight & Sound), Moses As Intimate With God.

16 1 On the morning of the third day there were **THUNDERS AND LIGHTNINGS**, and a thick cloud upon the mountain,
2 and a very loud **TRUMPET** blast, so that all the people who were in the camp **TREMbled**.
17 3 Then **MOSES** brought the people out of the camp to meet God; Marriage, Moses As A Broker!
and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. "God, This Is Your People!"
18 1' And Mount Sinai was wrapped in **SMOKE**, because the LORD (Yahweh) descended upon it in fire;
and the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.
19 2' And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder,
3' Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. This Man Moses Knows This Great God!

b) vv.20-25 The Issue Of The Boundaries Of Holiness, Moses As The Exception.

20 1 And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; Descent Of Presence
and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. Ascent Of Moses
21 2 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, Spoken In 3rd Person
lest they break through to the LORD to gaze and many of them perish. Numinous Attraction
22 And also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves,
lest the LORD break out upon them." God's Holy Presence Is Dangerous
23 3 And Moses said to the LORD, Moses Converses With This God!
"The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for thou thyself didst charge us, saying,
"Set bounds about the mountain, and consecrate it."
24 2' And the LORD said to him,
"Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you;
but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD,
lest he break out against them."
25 1' So Moses went down to the people and told them. Descent Of Moses As God's Mediating Prophet
Actually 14-15 Imperatives Grouped Into Ten Clusters

2) 20:1-17 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WITH EXPLANATIONS.

All Are Gifts

What It Means To Belong To This God, How To Stay Free!

vv.1-2 Preface: God's Person And Gracious Work On Their Behalf.

//Dt. 5:6-21, Ex. 34

1 And God spoke all these words (utterances), saying, Preface To Commands: God's Actions For Us
2 "I am the **LORD (Yahweh) your God**, God's Person: *Yahweh your God* (Commands 1-5)
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, God's Work: The Rescue Of A People, Set Free To Obey
out of the house of bondage. Liberation From Bondage And For God
Overtly Religious Text, Commands Linked To This God

a) vv.3-6 Commands Concerning God's Unique Person, 3 You Shall Not Prohibitions.

Personal Address, *You/Your*, Each Conceals A Promise, Each About Love

1) v.3 No Other Deities Or Powers Are To Be Regarded As The One, True God.

Another God
3 "You shall have no other gods before me. Exclusive Loyalty In A World Of Polytheism, Monolatry
2 Tablets, 10 Statements/Words, Ex. 34:28, Dt. 4:13, 10:4

2) vv.4-6 No Representations Allowed, Not Worship Those Of Others, Sanctions Added.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, Make An Idol To Be Worshiped, Not Anti-Art
Make Your Own or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, Comprehensive Ban On Creation
or that is in the earth beneath, As Spirit, God Has No Likeness In Creation Above Or Below
or that is in the water under the earth;
5 you shall not bow down to them or serve them; No Worship Of An Idol Made By Another
Reason + Sanction for I **the LORD your God** am a jealous God, Reason: God's Exclusive Character, Marriage
visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children Path Of Cursing For Idolatry
to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, Serious Sanctions
6 but showing steadfast love Path Of Blessing In Families
to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Love = Obey
Roman Catholics Count v.7 as No. 2, Divide No. 10 (lust & property)

3) v.7 No Misuse Of God's Holy Name, Sanctions Added, No Frivolity.

Trivialize God
7 "You shall not take the name of **the LORD your God** in vain; God's Name Is Reflection Of God's Being
Reason + Sanction for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. No Insincere Oaths

b) vv.8-12 Two Positive Commandments: God's Day And One's Parents.

Make A God
Of Ourselves

Back to Genesis, Set Apart, A Special Gift From God

4) vv.8-11 A Day Of Rest With A Creation Theological Warrant (7 Day Week).

8
9
10

Concern
For Weak
11

1'

1 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Dt. 5 *Safeguard*, Don't Forget That It's *Different*
2 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; Longest Commentary, Idol Making Is Second
3 but the seventh day is a sabbath to **the LORD your God**; Sabbath Means *Stop* Productivity
in it you shall not do any work, Head Of Household
you, or your son, or your daughter, No Delegation To Children
your manservant, or your maidservant, No Delegation To Slaves
or your cattle, No Delegation To Animals
or the sojourner who is within your gates; No Delegation To Foreigners
2' *for* in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, Dt. 5 Gives Exodus Rationale
and rested the seventh day; God Did; So Can You!
1' therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. Nation Of Slaves Is Invited To Imitate God!

5) v.12 Honor And Obligation Between The Generations: Promise Added.

12
Respect Elders

"Honor your father and your mother, 1-4 Vertical, 5-10 Horizontal, Love God/Neighbor
that your days may be long Honor Does Not Mean *Worship*
in the land which **the LORD your God** gives you. Promise
Family: vv.5b-6, 10, 12, 14, 17

c) vv.13-17 Boundaries In Relationships With Others: 5 You Shall Not Prohibitions.

We Need Others

2nd Pentad, Protection Against Injustices Of Others:

6) v.13 No Murder: Life Is Valuable.

13

"You shall not kill (murder). 5 Don'ts! Life, Spouse, Property, Good Name, Fear
Governments Not Denied Self-Defense In Just War Theory
No. 6-10 = Abrupt Change Of Style: Staccato

7) v.14 No Affairs: Marriage Is An Intimate Covenant And An Exclusive Bond.

14

"You shall not commit adultery. Sexual Integrity, Excludes Lust And What Excites It
No Predators Welcome In This Community!

8) v.15 No Theft: Ownership And Property Are Extensions Of The Person.

15

"You shall not steal. (or, Do not kidnap, enslave) No. 9: Don't Misuse Language

9) v.16 No Misuse Of The Legal System: Integrity In All Speech, No Gossip.

16

"You shall not bear false (vain) witness against your neighbor. Another's Name, Not Misuse The Courts
No One Escapes Last Commandment!

10) v.17 No Envious Desire: Goes Beyond Behavior To The Desires Of The Heart.

17

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; The Heart's Desire As Ground Of Adultery/Theft
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, Treats People As Property
or his manservant, or his maidservant, Acknowledge, Not Sanction Slavery
or his ox, or his ass, Particulars + Generalizing Summary
or anything that is your neighbor's." Decalogue = Living Relationship With This God, Mt. 19:16-19

1') 20:18-20 CONCLUSION TO THE COMMANDMENTS: THEOPHANY = GOD MANIFEST.

18
19
20
Goal

Now when all the people perceived the **THUNDERS AND LIGHTNINGS**
and the sound of the **TRUMPET** and the mountain **SMOKING**,
the people were afraid and **TREMbled**; and they stood afar off,
and said to **MOSES**,
"You speak to us, and we will hear; but let not God speak to us, lest we die."
And Moses said to the people,
"Do not fear; for God has come to prove you,
and that the fear of him may be before your eyes, *that you may not sin*."¹ Remedy To Ignorance=

¹ For a thoughtful commentary on the decalogue, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994), sections 2052-2557. Also Eugene Peterson, *Christ Plays In Ten Thousand Places* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005), 252-259; John Dickson, *A Doubter's Guide To The Ten Commandments* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016). The standard scholarly treatment is Patrick D. Miller, *The Ten Commandments* (Louisville, KY: WJK, 2018).

A Brief Examination of Conscience

Based on the Ten Commandments

I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation (Jan. 1; the Ascension; Aug. 15; Nov. 1; Dec. 8; Dec. 25)? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

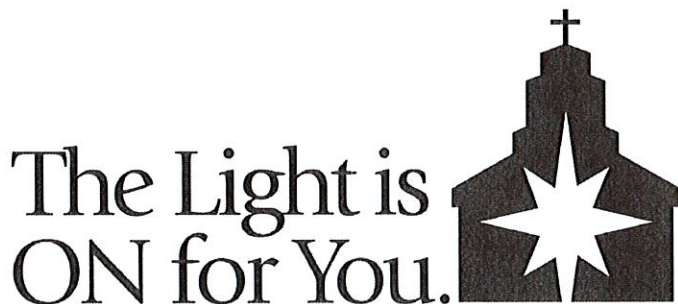
You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Christ's Two Commandments

How well do we love God and others? Do we love as Christ calls us to? In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ gives us Two Commandments: "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments'" (Mt 22:37-40).

Not sure what love is? St. Paul describes it for us in his Letter to the Corinthians. Is this how you love God and others? "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor 13:4-8).



Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

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