Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Words *based on Psalm 145* **Sherry and Eric Miller**

O God, our God,
Great are you, and greatly to be praised.
Your greatness is beyond all measure.

We meditate on your splendor and glory.
We ponder the story of your wonders.
We will recall your abundant goodness.

For you, O Lord,
Are gracious and compassionate, forever just and faithful.
Let your creatures thank you and praise you, O God!
May this worship draw us onto your ways!

Opening Prayer **Sherry and Eric Miller**

Holy One,
your grace knows no bounds, your love for all creation
is equal and eternal.

Each part of creation is loved by you no part more or less
all equally loved.
You, who are the beginning and the end, remind us
That there is enough. Enough for all.

We are sorry for those times we treat parts of creation without love.
We are sorry for those times we treat our neighbors without love.
Forgive us and give us the desire to love as you love,
all things equally.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 664 Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Matthew 20:1-16 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his
vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he
went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, 'You also go
into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and

about three o'clock, he did the same. **6** And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' **7** They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' **9** When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. **10** Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. **11** And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12** saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' **13** But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? **14** Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. **15** Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' **16** So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon Kin-dom Math **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Invitation to Offering

Hymn No. 372 O For A World AZMON

Prayer of the People **Sherry and Eric Miller**

Generous God,
thank you for loving us
and for eternally forgiving us and relentlessly inviting us into relationship with you.
We thank you for reminding us that
you envision a world where there could be enough for all:
enough love and compassion,
enough food,
enough water,
enough resources,
to be shared, to be enjoyed, for our needs to be satisfied,
peace to be established and treasured.

As we look at our broken world, we see so many people who have inherited
patterns of hate and violence and greed,
and can see no way out except continue down the same path.

You have shown us another way… help all your children, we pray, that we embrace it
And find life anew.

God, as we learn to follow your way, we ask for your presence in a world in the face of wildfires burning in California, Oregon, and Washington; in the face of harsh hurricanes ravaging states in the south-east, our southern neighbors and in so many parts of the world.

Lord, we yearn for your healing balm to quench the burning earth and for your shield against the storms. But we plead for good leadership that responds compassionately and effectively to the disasters. We pray that people affected may find new we find neighborliness and care in the midst of these devastating events. Help us to

check our greed and rethink our lifestyle choice, to recognize how we are hurting our planet. May we commit anew to better stewards of your creation.

We pray for people everywhere as they navigate the radical changes required in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. We pray comfort for those who lost loved ones, for grace and wisdom as all adapt and cope with new ways of living.

This pandemic and the social upheavals across our nation remind us again of the systemic inequalities and injustices that are rampant in our society and across the world, that make so many vulnerable. Lord, you remind us that our worth is not determined by where we find ourselves in these arbitrary pecking orders that we established… our value is not in what we can or cannot do, but for who you created us to be. When we made the marketplace our savior and trusted a zero-sum economy, you showed us a more excellent way.

So we pray for all people who do not earn a living wage, whose lives are less valued because of the color of their skin; we pray for people in countries devastated by conflict and poverty, who find aid to their country used as political football by the power-hungry leaders… in Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Guatemala and many other places.

Lord, you offer dignity as you care for our needs,
and promised life abundant, even here and now.
May we be willing to make the changes we need and to let go of our fears and mistrust of others,
so that together we can all move forward
and find a way of peace and reconciliation
that works for everyone, whoever and wherever they are.

We pray all these in the name of the one, who taught us to pray saying: **Our Father…** Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

*Notes: Hymn GTG372 is performed by Accompanist Ken Shaffer, piano,
and Director of Music and Arts Pong Thiemmedh, vocalist.

The Opening Prayer adopted from *Spill The Beans* issue no. 36.