



*the open door ~ praise & worship service*  
*...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying*  
10.03.18 • 7:00 pm

## Welcome & Announcements

**Song:** "Come, Now is the Time"

**Song:** "Come and See"

### ✚ Gospel Reading

"Mark 9:38-50" (NRSV)

Joy Collins

#### Another Exorcist

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone<sup>[a]</sup> casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. **Temptations to Sin** <sup>42</sup> "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,<sup>[b]</sup> it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,<sup>[c]</sup> to the unquenchable fire.<sup>[d]</sup><sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.<sup>[e][f]</sup> <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched <sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?<sup>[i]</sup> Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

The Word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

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**Children Moment:** Salt brings the best flavors out of food.

Our Christianity should bring the best out of us

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**Listening for God's Message**

**Back then anyone missing a foot,**

**hand or eye would not be allowed in the Temple.**

**Gehenna**, also called **Gehinnom**, abode of the damned in the afterlife in Jewish and Christian eschatology (the doctrine of last things). Named in the New Testament in Greek form (from the Hebrew Ge Hinnom, meaning “valley of Hinnom”), Gehenna originally was a valley west and south of Jerusalem where children were burned as sacrifices to the Ammonite god Moloch. This practice was carried out by the [(apostate) Israelites] during the reigns of King Solomon in the 10th century bc and King Manasseh in the 7th century bc and continued until the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century bc. Gehenna later was made a garbage centre to discourage a reintroduction of such sacrifices.

The imagery of the burning of humans supplied the concept of “hellfire” to Jewish and Christian eschatology.

Mentioned several times in the New Testament (*e.g.*, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and James) as a place in which fire will destroy the wicked, it also is noted in the Talmud, a compendium of Jewish law, lore, and commentary, as a place of *purification, after which one is released from further torture.*

encyclopedia Britannica: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Gehenna>  
<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/6558-gehenna>  
<http://biblehub.com/greek/1067.htm>

Disciples missing the Mark

Peter & Jesus “behind me Satan” – road ahead paved with sacrifice

Who is the greatest – road of service

## **Turf wars**

*Whoever is not against us is for us.* [Mark 9:40]

Jesus' point is that God's kingdom happens everywhere,

all the time,

and God's saving power is potentially available to and through ALL that is.

ComPassion

Servant'hood

Inclusion

## Literalism:

Does "in My name" literally mean saying Jesus' name?

Rev. Sally Fulton, from Dunblane Cathedral in Scotland asserts that:

*"In My name" means "aligned with".*

*It means in agreement with,  
working for the same causes."*

Is Jesus, affirming that when we or anyone works for good,

we work for Him?

Is the kin-dom of God vaster and bigger than the wall we like to build?

## **"Saving Souls" vs. "Caring for Souls"**

My mentor **Rev. Woody Eddins,**

joked that "a true literalist church is the one that  
all members have only one hand, one foot and one eye."

## **Better for one to exclude oneself**

**then to exclude others.**

Aren't we called to "care for each other's souls"?

We are called to practice the 3 simple rules:

"do all the good we can,  
to as many people as we can,  
as often as we can,"

not because that will “save” them  
but because “caring for each other’s souls”  
can potentially bring **us** and **others** back to the path of redemption  
whenever we stray away from Jesus.

Let us keep our “**saltiness**”  
and always seek to “**be at peace with one another.**”

Let us preserve our seasoning  
and bring one another closer and closer to God.

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### **Offering**

Martha McMahon	October 3
Julie Noto	October 3
Michael Dreyfus	October 5
Marilyn Fuller	October 5
Sarah Taranto	October 6
Martin McMahon	October 7

### **Communion**

**Anthem** “I Can Only Imagine”

**Song** “Break Every Chain”

**Song:** “Victory Chant”

**Benediction & Passing the Peace**

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