



the open door ~ praise & worship service
...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying
11.07.18 • 7:00 pm

Welcome & Announcements

Song: "Love You So Much"

Song: "Break Every Chain"

Gospel Reading "Mark 12:28-34" [MSG- adapted for inclusive language] Joe Tigner

The Most Important Commandment

²⁸ One of the religion scholars came up.

Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in His answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

²⁹⁻³¹ Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel:

The LORD your God is one; so love the LORD God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.'

And here is the second:

'Love others as well as you love yourself.'

There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

³²⁻³³ The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher!

So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other.

And loving [the Most High] with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself.

Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"

³⁴ When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said,

"You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."

After that, no one else dared ask a question.

The Word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God!***

Listening for God's Message

"Where Is It?"

Pastor Alex

[A parable told by Benjamin Zander. Source: The Art of Possibility]

Four young men sit by the bedside of their dying father.

The old man, with his last breath,

tells them there is a huge treasure buried in the family fields.

The sons crowd around him crying,
"Where, where?"
but it is too late.

The day after the funeral
and for many days to come,
the young men go out with their picks and shovels
and turn the soil,
digging deeply into the ground
from one end of each field to the other.
They find nothing and, bitterly disappointed,
abandon the search.
The next season the farm has its best harvest ever.

Remembering

We remember those who have died since our last celebration of All Saints.
We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

We shall see a new heaven and earth,
For the old will pass away.
*We shall see a new Jerusalem,
The holy city descending from heaven.*

The city shall need no sun or moon,
For God's glory will be its light,
*For God's Lamb will be its lamp,
And by its light the nations shall walk.*

We shall hear a loud voice from the throne:

"Behold, God's dwelling is with mortals.

Indeed, God will dwell with them

and they will be God's people."

God shall wipe away all our tears,

And there shall be no more death.

Mourning, crying, and pain shall cease,

For all former things will pass away.

We shall hear One speak from the throne:

"Behold, I make all things new.

I am Alpha and Omega,

The beginning and the end."

Our lord testifies to these things:

"Behold, I am coming soon."

The grace of the Lord is with us.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Come!

Communion

Offering

God of love and uncountable blessings,

we bring our gifts this day in the sight of our cloud of witnesses —

the saints who have guided our lives

and watch over our faithfulness from heaven's balcony.

As we strive to live out their hope and faith in the promise of your kin-dom, may we also

rededicate ourselves to live so
this world better reflects your kingdom and rule.
In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Revelation 21:1-6a) —

Anthem "For the Lord our God Reigns"

Song: "I Will Follow"

Song: "Sing For Joy"

Benediction & Passing the Peace