



Sudbury United Methodist Church

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
July 25, 2010

Before worship, please feel free to greet those around you. Concerns or celebrations to be included in today's prayers may be recorded on cards in the pew pockets and passed to the ushers during the second hymn. When the prelude begins, let us prepare to worship God.

**indicates worshippers may stand, as they are able.*

Prelude: Hymn Sing

Welcome

***Call to Worship:** (*Prayers to Share, alt.*)

Leader: Faithfulness is the mark of your people, O God.

**People: The faithful ones in times past blessed your name, O God,
and worked in your way.**

Leader: And now we are called to be faithful,

**People: to run with determination the race that is before us,
keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.**

Leader: It will not be easy, but you, O God, will deal gracefully with us.

People: Thanks be to you, O God.

***Hymn of Praise:** UMH #140 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

***Opening Prayer:** (*Book of Common Worship*)

**Almighty and ever living God,
increase in us your gift of faith,
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to what is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy. Amen.**

***Gospel Reading:** Luke 12:49-56

This reading is on page 75 in the New Testament.

Children's Time: "The Dividing Line"

Special Music: "Laudamus Te" from "Gloria", A. Vivaldi, Janet Fell and Kate Meifert vocals

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

This reading is on page 226 in the New Testament.

Sermon: "Faith Rules the Day"

Rev. Martin McLee

***Hymn of Response:** UMH #385 "Let Us Plead for Faith Alone"

A Time of Fellowship

**Greeting Our Guests
Concerns and Celebrations
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Moment

The Offertory: "We Need a Faith", Thornburg/Irvine, Janet Fell and Kate Meifert vocals

***The Doxology:** UMH #94 – "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Commitment:** TFWS #2208 "Guide My Feet"

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude: "Carillon"

L. Vierne

In consideration for those who wish to listen quietly to the postlude, worshipers who must exit the sanctuary immediately are asked to save conversations until they have left the room. Thanks!

Reconciling & Welcoming Statement: The United Methodist Church is a community of believers and seekers, with differences in age, class, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, abilities, and limitations. We at SUMC recognize that there are attitudes, concerning these diverse characteristics, which violate the integrity of individuals and deny the richness of God's creation. Therefore we affirm our welcome to all people into our community of faith. We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family, enabling them to grow in their faith, to be fed by our fellowship, and to contribute their talents to the life of the church in its worship, programs, and outreach. We call the church and society to be sensitive to all persons and to advocate programs which attempt to ensure justice for all.

Sudbury United Methodist Church

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Church Office: sumc@sudbury-umc.org

Website: <http://www.sudbury-umc.org>

Church Staff

Pastor: *Rev. Joel Guillemette (On sabbatical)*

Pastor: *Rev. John W. Nash*

Music Director/Organist: *Kevin Murphy*

Sanctuary Choir Director: *Rob Hammerton*

Director Christian Education: *Dr. Elizabeth Windsor*

Youth Ministries Coordinator: *Kelly Ladd Bishop (On leave)*

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Sudbury United Methodist Church

July 25, 2010

“Rejoice in the Lord Always!”

In Philippians 4:4-7, Paul suggests that rejoicing in God's nearness leads to less worry, and that less worry leads to experiencing the peace of Christ. If that's true, and we Christians believe it is, then one of the best ways to minimize worry and to find God's peace within is going to church to “rejoice in the Lord.” If you are new to our church, we thank you for sharing in our rejoicing. We also thank you for helping us to get to know you by writing your name, address and phone number in your pew's attendance folder. If time permits, we also invite you to join us after worship for coffee and fellowship. Just exit the sanctuary by the door near the pulpit, climb three stairs, turn left and follow the corridor all the way to the end. Or to learn more about us, visit the “Welcome and Information Station” near the front door.

Pastor Joel on Sabbatical

Senior Pastor Joel Guillemette began a three-month sabbatical and study leave on June 1, during which he will explore emerging patterns in 21st century worship. In September, Pastor Joel will share the results of his studies with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Church Council, and the congregation.

Directions to the Family Room

Infants and toddlers are welcome in worship. Parents who wish to visit our Family Room with visual and aural access to the sanctuary will find steps leading to it in both front stair wells. Parents may stay in the Family Room or entrust children to the attendants on duty.

Large Print Worship Books

For those who prefer large print materials, special copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing* are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Register for Disciple I Bible Study

Starting September 13, Pastor Joel will lead Sudbury UMC's next Disciple I Bible Study for adults who would like to read most of the Bible, get to know a group of committed Christian friends, and grow closer to God. Requirements include at least 30 minutes of daily Bible reading, attending a 2 ½ hour class on 32 Monday nights, and taking part in a 24-hour closing retreat in May 2011. Email drelizabeth@sudbury-umc.org to register.

Rosie's Place

Volunteers are needed to provide meals for Rosie's Place on August 5 and September 2. Pasta salad and dessert are needed for these two dates. If you can volunteer please contact Cindy Simon at 978-443-4373 or sudburysimons@verizon.net. Remember, if you will be out of town on these dates, the dessert items can be placed in the freezer. Just label them as being for Rosie's and the month to be used.

Greenwood Picnic – Save the Date

Greenwood Memorial United Methodist Church will host our annual picnic on Sunday, August 15. This year's summer get together will be held on Castle Island beginning with worship led by Rev. Garvin Warden on the shore at 10 AM. Pastor Garvin's theme will be "Jesus on the Shore." A meal will be provided with SUMC providing desserts. There will be a signup sheet for bus transportation or for car pooling in Hawes Hall starting today. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/castle.htm> to learn about the many recreational opportunities on Castle Island – swimming, places to stroll, playgrounds, restrooms and other amenities. Come and enjoy a wonderful day!

Volunteers Needed for Summer Sunday School

On Sunday mornings through September 5, children from Pre-K through Grade 5 will participate in a one-room summer Sunday School class to be led by teams of two or three volunteers. Teachers are still needed for August. To reserve the one or two Sundays when you prefer to lead this class, please sign up at the Christian Education bulletin board or by contacting Elizabeth Windsor at drelizabeth@sudbury-umc.org. Thanks for your support.

Savoyards To Present "On Golden Pond"

The Sudbury Savoyards will present Ernest Thompson's classic love story "On Golden Pond" at Curtis Middle School July 30 and 31 at 7:30 with matinees at 1:30 on July 25 and 31. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for seniors, students and children under 12, and may be purchased by phoning 978-443-8811, email to tickets@sudburysavoyards.org or through their website www.sudburysavoyards.org. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Ethel and Norman Thayer know that time is against them, but the years together have been good and, just perhaps, another summer awaits them on Golden Pond. Curtis Middle School is located at 22 Pratts Mill Road in Sudbury, and is air conditioned, handicapped accessible, and surrounded by ample parking.

Back by Popular Demand!

For more than 40 years, Sudbury UMC's fall retreat has been a valued tradition. Last September, it was not possible to offer an overnight option at Grotonwood, our retreat's new venue in Groton, MA. But this year's planning team is pleased to announce that an overnight option is back by popular demand! On Saturday, September 11, participants may choose to spend the night at the conference center. Or those who prefer the one-day option may join the retreat after worshipping at Sudbury UMC on Sunday, September 12. Look for your copy of this year's retreat brochure and registration form in the narthex or church office and remember to register no later than August 31.

Blog Changes

The web address for Pastor John's blog has changed. It may now be found at www.ayankeepastor.blogspot.com. Also remember to visit our Director of Christian Education, Elizabeth Windsor's blog at <http://drelizabethlwindsor.blogspot.com>.

Daily Bible Readings

At Sudbury UMC, our Sunday scripture readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Each week, the lectionary typically gives one reading from the Hebrew scriptures, the psalms, one of the New Testament epistles (letters) and the gospels. The RCL was published in 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts, a group comprising 21 North American denominations including the UMC. They also worked in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church to coordinate readings. What this means is that on most Sundays, if you go into one of the churches using the lectionary, you will hear the same scripture readings.

To help facilitate daily Bible reading, the Consultation on Common Texts has also created a daily reading cycle to supplement the Sunday scriptures. The scriptures from Monday through Wednesday reference the readings for the prior Sunday, and Thursday through Saturday reference the scriptures for the following Sunday.

Sunday, July 25

Isaiah 5:1-7 (NRSV)

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 (NRSV)

Prayer for Israel's Restoration

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! You brought a vine out

of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River. Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted. They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Hebrews 11:29–12:2 (NRSV)

The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12:49-56 (NRSV)

Jesus, the Cause of Division

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'

Daily Scripture Passages

Monday, July 26

Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:8-23
1 John 4:1-6

Wednesday, July 28

Psalm 74
Isaiah 27:1-13
Luke 19:45-48

Friday, July 30

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 9:1-17
Ephesians 4:17-24

Tuesday, July 27

Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:24-30
Acts 7:44-53

Thursday, July 29

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 8:1-14
Romans 11:33-36

Saturday, July 31

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 10:1-15
Mark 10:17-22

To access the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible online, go to <http://bible.oremus.org>. Other translations may also be found at www.biblegateway.com. If there is interest, we may begin a daily email or post on the church's website the full text for each day. If interested, please speak to Pastor John.

"Faith Rules the Day"
Rev. Martin McLee
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

People to Pray For This Week:

Prayer for the week:

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy. Amen.

Next Week:

The readings for Sunday, August 1st are Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; and Luke 12:13-21. Pastor John's sermon, "Is This Enough?", will be on the Gospel passage.