



Sunday, September 27, 2026; 8:15 and 10:00 am

Christ for the world we sing. The world to Christ we bring with one accord.
With us the work to share. With us reproach to dare.
With us the cross to bear for Christ our Lord.

Litany of the Day

8:15 – Camille Parker

10:00 – Ashley Franks

Leader: God of living faith, who meets us in the places where power and authority are questioned, open our hearts to be changed by your grace.

People: Forgive us when we offer smooth words of obedience like the first child yet fail to do the actual work of love.

Leader: When we speak of justice, compassion, and welcome, strip away our pious performance and give us courage to act.

People: Open our eyes to the tax collectors and prostitutes—the marginalized and despised who enter your kingdom ahead of us.

Leader: When John the Baptist pointed the way to righteousness, the unlikely ones believed—turning their hearts to follow your path.

People: Shape our hands, our feet, our resources, and our lives into instruments of repentance and repair.

All: God of courageous grace, move us from lip service to life-giving action, that our repentance may build a world where all are welcome. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lauren Boyd

Offering / Offertory Prayer

Offertory Music

Rejoice Greatly

Handbell Ensemble

(Susan E Geschke) One License # CGB302

Scripture

Matthew 21:23-32 Common English Bible

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?"

Jesus replied, "I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I'll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things. Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?"

They argued among themselves, "If we say 'from heaven,' he'll say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But we can't say 'from humans' because we're afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet." Then they replied, "We don't know." Jesus also said to them, "Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ “‘No, I don’t want to,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

“The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, ‘Yes, sir.’ But he didn’t go. “Which one of these two did his father’s will?” They said, “The first one.” Jesus said to them, “I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God’s kingdom ahead of you. For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn’t believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn’t change your hearts and lives and you didn’t believe him.

Response After Reading

Pastor: The Scripture of faith for the people of faith.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Sermon

“In Action, Not Just Words”

***Closing Hymn** # 2153 - *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

(African American Spiritual, arr. Wendell Whalum) One License # LMGM2537

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me. Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***Benediction**

Sending Forth Music *Trumpet Voluntary* Handbell Ensemble

(Jeremiah Clarke, arr. Sandra Eithun) One License # CGB859_3

***Please stand as you are able.**

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