



The Midweek

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP [part 2]

Last week I invited you on a journey. This journey follows my thoughts and reflections on Christian Worship after taking my first doctoral course at The Institute for Worship Studies. This series is based on excerpts from my first theological paper focusing on Christian Worship throughout the Old and New Testaments. The thoughts are based in Scripture, with quotes and thoughts from various professors of worship and theology from around the world.

Several key thoughts to remember from last week:

- 1.) Genesis 1 (select verses):
“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gn 1:1). God then spoke and created all things *ex nihilo*, meaning “out of nothing.” After creating the heavens and the earth, God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gn 1:26a). “So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him” (Gn 1:27a).
- 2.) Personal definition of Christian Worship:
Christian worship is communion with the Triune God in which believers, by faith in the redemptive work of Christ, center their minds attention and hearts affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his word.
- 3.) From the Westminster Confession:
Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.
- 4.) Matthew 28:19:
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thus, the journey continues . . .

The Creation story begins with the God who created it. Robert Webber states, “God, this eternal being of love, desires to create other beings (persons in community) to share in his own community. God created humanity in his *image*, persons who dwell in community and are actually called by God to fellowship with the community of the Godhead from the *inside*.”¹ God’s community in this creation was the Garden of Eden, a perfect Paradise in which God could be in fellowship (community) with his creation. Community (communion) with God is central to worship; worship is the place in which God can be present with his people. Genesis states, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Gn 2:15). Man had communion with God and reflected his glory.

Allen Ross states, **“Creation has always been foundational to the faith of the worshiping community, not only because it displays the power and majesty of the Creator, but also because it provides the basis and even the pattern for God’s great work of redemption.”**² “And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Gn 2:8-9a). Following the creation of the earth, Adam and Eve lived in communion with God in Paradise, but then, sin entered into the world. Man ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and fractured that perfect union with God. **“The worship of God, the Creator, is therefore also the worship of God, the Redeemer, for what God did in creation set the pattern not only for redemption but also for the worship of the redeemed.”**³

The Fall of Man (sin) removed our immediate access to God through communion with God in the Garden of Eden but God, being a God of redemption, provided two ways to continue that communion with him. First, God provided mediated access through the building of the tabernacle and then the Temple. The Temple was a place of worship; but it also drew people’s attention back to creation and the Garden of Eden in which humankind had communion with God. Secondly, God provided Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word. “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14). **The Word becoming flesh (Incarnation) is God himself repairing the relationship between the Creator/creation through Jesus Christ, the redeemer of the world.** “God literally and actually became a human being. God did not *turn*

into flesh, nor did the Word simply *reside* in a human body. The incarnation is a real *union* of divinity and humanity that took place in the womb of the Virgin Mary.”⁴ The Gospel of John shows that God is with us. “The divine presence is no longer bound to the Temple, but the Word who was with God ‘in the beginning’ and who in fact ‘was God,’ has become flesh and taken up temporary residence or ‘pitched’ a tent among us.”⁵

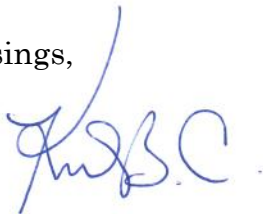
God is the Creator of the earth and God created humankind to be in continual communion with him. God is loving and redeeming; after the Fall of Man in Paradise, the Garden of Eden, God re-created the earth through the flood. Man’s access to God was removed through sin, but God provided access to him first through the tabernacle/Temple but ultimately through Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, the Word that became flesh.

Created in God’s image, the creation is called to worship God. Scripture shows time and time again the ways in which the creation has expressed personal devotion and love to God. From the very beginning of Scripture, God (Creator) established a relationship with humankind (the creation). It is this relationship that calls us to worship. Robbie Castleman states, “Worship must be focused on the character and the pleasure of the One who is worshiped. To “worship” with no thought of God, who is both the object of and mediator of worship, usually results in a service that merely manifests the efforts, gifts or intentions to please worshipers and that they find acceptable.”⁶ God thus must be the object and subject of our worship. *Who is God?* Creator. *Who am I?* Creation, created in his image.

How do I respond to God? Worship. Daniel Block states, “True worship involves reverential human acts of submission and homage before the divine Sovereign in response to his gracious revelation of himself and in accord with his will.”⁷ **True worship is authentic; from the heart as seen in the New Testament, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn 4:23-24).**

To be continued . . .

Blessings,



Kevin B. Chamberlain
Minister of Music

****For a list of works cited please speak with Kevin for a print or email copy of the article.****

SPRC Actions & Up-dates

Staffing Up-date

We are in the process of recruiting for a full-time **Pastor of Discipleship & Connections**. The Job Summary states . . . “The Pastor of Discipleship & Connections will lead the Small Group Ministries of Avenue UMC and other ministry functions that will nurture the church family in connecting to one another and to grow in their personal faith journey. They will develop, implement and maintain system(s) to assimilate persons new to the church into the life of the church.” If you know of someone that may be interested in this position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

We are also in the process of recruiting for a part-time position for a **Pastor of Congregational Care (Visitation)**. The Job Summary states . . . The Pastor of Congregational Care will lead the efforts of Avenue UMC in providing pastoral care and compassion to the Avenue church family. It is expected he/she will utilize the staff and the laity of the church in the ministry of pastoral care. If you know of someone that may be interested in this pastoral position, please let them know of this opening and/or pass along their name and contact information to Pastor Steve or a member of the Staff Parish Committee.

Praise & Worship Team – while we are not currently recruiting for the Team Leader please know that this is a tremendous opportunity to serve our church. If you or someone that you may know have been blessed with musical talents, how about sharing those gifts with our church family.

Church Covenant

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has been working over the past year with Pastor Steve to create the Ministry Covenant of Avenue UMC. The concept of a “church covenant” between the laity and the clergy has been encouraged for all churches within our conference for the past few years. The attached covenant was approved by our Church Council on May 5, 2021. I urge you to review the Ministry Covenant and ask yourself how you will join, support, and/or lead in fulfilling the mission and ministries of Avenue UMC!

Please know that the vision and missional goals, as well as the expectations of the pastor and the congregation, are intended to be dynamic. They may well change and be enhanced from one year to the next. Please feel free to share your thoughts and comments with any member of the SPRC. While the SPRC members were instrumental in the drafting of this covenant, it serves as an agreement between the entire laity and the clergy of Avenue UMC. Together we all make up the body of Avenue Church and have the vital role of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and serving our community in Christian love.

2021 Ministry Covenant of Avenue United Methodist Church

Covenant – “an agreement, a conditional promise” formed between the SPRC and the Lead Pastor, Steve LaMotte.

This Covenant will be used as the foundation for the relationship between our pastor and the congregation of the Avenue United Methodist Church (AUMC). The purpose of this Covenant is to reinforce the bond between the congregation and the pastor by:

- 1) Clearly establishing the expectations of the pastor by the congregation.
- 2) Clearly establishing the expectations of the congregation by the pastor.
- 3) Supplementing district forms/formats in the performance evaluation of the pastor.

This Covenant shall be reviewed and adopted by the Church Council. It is intended to be a dynamic document that will be flexible enough to meet the evolving and changing needs of the Avenue Church Family in serving the ministry and mission of AUMC in our community.

Core Value: “Truth – Trust – Respect”

- 1) We respect the need for each person’s right to privacy and will keep all discussions regarding personnel and personal information confidential.
- 2) Our SPRC Committee meetings will be a safe place where all that are involved can be trusting, open and honest when dealing with any issue.
- 3) We will offer regular and honest feedback to our pastor in a timely and kindhearted manner.
- 4) We will treat each other with respect, recognizing the various gifts and talents that each member brings to the committee.
- 5) We will support our pastor through our prayers, our presence, our gifts/talents and our service, recognizing that this ministry is truly a partnership.
- 6) We believe that our pastor needs to be present at the SPRC meetings and the SPRC will hold no meetings without the pastor’s knowledge.
- 7) We believe that the hiring and dismissal of staff members lies jointly with the pastor and the SPRC Committee.

2021 Vision and Missional Goals for AUMC

- To embrace the Vision Statement of AUMC – “to be a dynamic faith community growing in hope, love and service.”
- To embrace the Mission Statement of AUMC – “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.”
- To develop a clearly defined Discipleship Pathway Process for our church.
- To develop measurable goals.
- To define what “active participation” means for our church laity.

Expectations (actions) of the Church Congregation

- To actively support the pastor and the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.
- To actively participate in and develop our leadership in various connectional ministries such as small groups, family ministries, grief share, etc.
- To fully support the church leadership in exploring, developing and implementing a leadership structure that enhances our discipleship pathway process.

Expectations of the Lead Pastor

- To lead the church family in worship that is Christ centered and biblically based.
- To observe a day of Sabbath.
- To maintain the priority of God, family and work (Avenue Church and district activities).
- To accomplish the 2021 performance goals as noted by SPRC in the Performance Evaluation.

Adopted by SPRC: March 25, 2021 (LRW SPRC Chair)

Approved by Pastor: Steven R. LaMotte

Approved by Church Council: May 5, 2021

2021 YARD SALE

The summer is moving along and that means the Yard Sale is coming quickly!! Here is a list of all the important dates that you need to help us get ready. Please let us know if you cannot make the meeting, but want to help.

Judy Struck (609) 319- 8082 judystruck@comcast.net
Sandy Culotta (302) 258-5787 swculotta@gmail.com

YARD SALE DATES AND TIMES:

- ◆ Thursday, August 5th from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (\$1 entrance fee)
- ◆ Friday, August 6th from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, August 7th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DONATION DATES AND TIMES:

- ◆ Thursday, July 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, July 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, July 31st from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, August 2nd from 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, August 3rd from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FURNITURE PICK UP:

Contact Larry Hughes (302) 745-4331 or Dave Reynolds (302) 503-3933. Times will vary and items must be either in the garage or outside.

SIGNUP TO HELP: If you would like to sign up in advance for a time to help with the donations and/or the Yard Sale please use the following link to access the sign up sheet: tinyurl.com/avenueys21.

PLEASE PICK UP A LIST OF WHAT WE WILL AND WILL NOT ACCEPT FROM THE TABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER AS THE YARD SALE HAS BEEN MODIFIED THIS YEAR.



THIS SUMMER AT AVENUE



JULY 29TH @ 6:30P

THE REHOBOTH SUMMER
CHILDREN'S THEATER PRESENTS:
HANSEL AND GRETEL



AUGUST 11TH @ 6:30P

THE PRETTY CRAZIES AND
THE DADDY JAM BAND

**EVENTS ARE OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC & FREE!**

AVENUEUMC.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/AVENUEUMC

**AVENUE CHURCH
20 N. CHURCH ST. MILFORD, DE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY: Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional), 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary) 6:30 p.m. (Outdoor Worship). We are streaming the morning worship services on our Facebook (facebook.com/avenueumc) and Youtube (youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch) pages.

GIVING AT AVENUE is possible through multiple ways.

- You can give your offering in-person
- You can snail mail your gift to: 20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963
- You can give online through the red “give” button on our homepage
- You can download and use our “Avenue Church DE” App on your smart phone

PASTORAL CARE: If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact a staff person directly. You can also email prayer@avenueumc.com to have your name added to the prayer chain. We are doing limited face-to-face visits during this time, but would be happy to make contact any way that we can.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Church Office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We asked that you use the main entrance to access the office during business hours. All guest will need to buzz in on the intercom to be let in.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY DREAM TEAM: As we prepare for the Fall and the discipleship that is taking place in our congregation, we want to invite those who are passionate about children’s and family ministry to join our Dream Team. This team will spend time in prayer and dreaming about how to best disciple our children and make our families the primary place of discipleship. If you are interested in learning more, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

SUMMER KICS: Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4th grade (Kids 5th grade and up can remain in the sanctuary and worship as a family). KICS Kids will be released to Wesley Room prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Wesley Room after worship.

Kids will be socially distanced and must wear a mask while in KICS. Activities will be appropriate for the time and there will be at least two adults helping with KICS. If you have questions about SUMMER KICS, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Patty Shockley at pws210@comcast.net. **Next class is on Sunday, July 25th.**

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS? As we continue to move towards a more open worship experience on Sunday morning, there will be additional opportunities to serve. We are seeking people who have passions and interest in serving in several areas to help continue to make Sunday Worship the best experience possible. Below are a few places we are creating or reshaping. If you are interested in serving in an area, please email Pastor Steve at srlamotte@avenueumc.com.

- **Greeters:** Are the first line of contact for guest. Must be upbeat, helpful, and willing to make a great first impression.

- **Ushers:** Work inside the sanctuary to help guest find a seat, dismiss worshippers after service, help with a head count, and make worship a great experience by serving others. When appropriate, ushers will also assist with offering.
- **Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults of all ages to be on a list of back-ups to help our nursery staff when there is a vacation or illness. This ensures that our nursery stays open to serve families at both services.
- **Connection Center/Guest Services:** This is a new ministry area that will help connect new attenders to the life of the church. In this ministry, you will receive connect cards, answer questions about worship and the church, and help people get connected to ministries and opportunities for Spiritual Growth. To serve in this ministry, hospitality and a desire to connect is a must!

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY—UPDATE: The Milford Community Pantry thanks you for your gracious support. The pantry will be **closed August 6th** during the Yard Sale. Because of all the activity during the yard sale setup we ask you to hold donations to the pantry until August 9th. Thank You!

MILFORD LIONS CLUB: Milford Lions Club is collecting used eyeglasses. There is a donation box in the coat closet.

MEAL TRAIN AT AVENUE: Health Ministries is looking for folks in the Avenue family who like to cook and would like to prepare meals for those who are sick, who have had loved ones pass, or who have had new babies as a way to care for one another. We are using the website mealtrain.com to allow members to sign up. If you would like to receive emails when we need meals, you can email Sharon at sharonclendaniel@msn.com.

AVENUE HOSTING COMMUNITY EVENTS: This summer, Avenue is hosting several events as a way to come together as a community. Each event is free and open to the public.

July 29th @ 6:30p.m. - The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theater Presents: Hansel and Gretel. Join us for a 2-person play performed by The Rehoboth Summer Children's Theater. Schlabach's Ice Cream will be on hand. Bring your own chair or blanket.

August 11th @ 6:30p.m. - The Pretty Crazies and The Daddy Jam Band. Bring your kids for a night of music, celebration, and empowerment from The Pretty Crazies. The Felton Fire Company Ice Cream Trailer will be at the concert. Bring your own chair or blanket.

HELP WITH TENT INSTALLATION—We need 6 volunteers to help put up our newly purchased tent on July 23rd and July 24th starting at 8:30 a.m. If you are interested please call Kelly at (302) 422-8111 or email at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

FUSION—CANCELLED: There will be NO FUSION on Sunday, July 25th.

AVENUE PRESCHOOL: Avenue Preschool has an opening for a teacher in the beginners program. You must be certified in early childhood education to apply. The hours are Monday -

Friday from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. with summers off. Please email your resume to office@avenuepreschool.org.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Summer Sunday School for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired plus others, is meeting in the Grier Room at 10:15 a.m. The study for July is “The People Next Door.” The lesson for July 25th lesson is “Love Your Neighbor, Really” based on Mark 2:1-12. Please join us in the Grier Room for these exciting lessons.

Drowning and serious injury is too common

Unfortunately, many people drown each year, and others are seriously injured, while they are enjoying activities at beaches, rivers, lakes and swimming pools. In Australia, more children die from drowning than from motor vehicle accidents or any other cause except illness. Also, every year people are paralyzed diving into shallow water in rivers and lakes.

How to be safe at the beach

Suggestions include:

- Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim.
- Swim at a beach patrolled by lifesavers.
- Swim between the red and yellow flags. They mark the safest areas to swim.
- Swim under supervision or with a friend.
- Read and obey the safety signs.
- Ask a lifesaver if you are unsure of conditions.
- Go surfing with someone else.
- Do not swim right away after you've had a meal.
- Do not swim under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not run and dive in the water.
- Check it is okay to swim before you enter the water. Remember that conditions change regularly and quickly.
- Use at least 15+ sunscreen; wear a long-sleeved shirt and broad-brimmed hat.
- Do not panic if you get caught in a rip at a patrolled beach. Float with the rip and raise one arm for assistance.
- Wear a foot strap when surfing or a wrist strap when body boarding.



<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/swimming-preventing-injury#drowning-and-serious-injury-is-too-common>

**This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the
sea so that its waves roar-the Lord Almighty is his name:"**

Jeremiah 31:35



Health Ministry



SYMPATHY TO:

- The family of Ruth Callaway who passed away on July 16, 2021. Ruth joined Avenue on February 24, 2002.
- The family and friends of Alvin Jarrell who passed way on July 18, 2021.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the vaccine.
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Joseph Archie), Bishop Peggy Johnson, and The United Methodist Church
- The Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church
- Those who lost loved ones in the building collapse in Florida.

PRAYER REQUEST:

Ann	Steve Hofer	Phil Saint
Rosie Babel	Karl Isele	Richard Sapp
Frank & Frances Beebe	Ron Ivory	Alice Sellers
Bobby Bergez	Dean Johnson	Roland Simms
Bob Cage	Justin	Racheal Simesak
Charlene Johnson Cannon	Linda Kemp	Gary Simpson
Jennifer Clarke	Doris Koon	Linda Singleton
Gloria Clendaniel	Rhoda & Greg Kurz	Samuel Smith
Jack & Denny Collins	Jean Layton	Joan Tolbert
Luisa & Billy Combs	Jean Layton's Grandson	Debbie Topolski
Violet Condif	Nancy Lee	Gene Topolski
Lauren Connell	Lee Family	Joan Wadman
Linda Cottrill	Brittany Poore Little	Mary Lou Walters
Craig	Jack & Zelda McDuff	Lloyd Webb
Rick Crump	Sonny Meck	TJ Webb
Sandy Culotta	Tiffany Medlin	Betty Ziesel
Julie Dally	Frank Mentusky	
Joanna Denney-Turner	Orville Mills	
Michael Dougherty	Kathryn Avery Mitchell	
William Ernst	Tiffany Mitchell	
Ken Fechter	Stan Moody	
Charlie & Barbara	Jean Murphy	
Fleetwood	Jason Neall	
Jayne Frank	Ariel Ownes	
Steve & Judy Franklin	Alan Parker	
Gail & Jeffrey	Laurel Pastor	
Bonnie Glenn	Jan Perkins	
Alina Guido	Millie Remick	
Matt Hall	Roy Rigby	
Dave Harris	Dick Roberts	
Beverly Harrison	Lorna Rosella Rulona	