

# Welcome to Worship at Parkview United Methodist Church

Sunday, August 10



***Our mission as the people of Parkview  
is to grow in faith in Christ and reach out in God's love!***



**Ministers of Parkview:** Everyone!

(715)986-2467...[parkviewtl.com](http://parkviewtl.com)...236 Maple St. N, Turtle Lake

**Pastor:** Adam Woods

(608) 513-2937... [pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com)

Pastor Adam will hold office hours this week on Wednesday 2:00-3:30 and Friday 9:00-noon

**Ushers/Greeters:** Mark Fuller

**Scripture Reader:** Paula Carlson

**Accompanist:** Judy Benes

# Gathering as the People of God

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Opening Prayer

*If you have a special prayer request to lift up this morning, please feel free to either share it briefly during Announcement time or write it out on the “Prayer Request” card in the pew. Please place completed “Prayer Request” cards in the Noisy Can during the “Noisy Offering” time immediately after the Little Disciples’ Message in a few moments. Prayer requests will be included in the Prayers of the People later in the worship service.*

Opening Hymns

“As the Deer” #2025 *(The Faith We Sing)*

“Gather Us In” #2236 *(The Faith We Sing)*

Little Disciples’ Message

*Following the special message, the Little Disciples will come around to collect the “Noisy Offering” in the decorated coffee can. This offering goes toward the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).*

## Hearing the Word of God Proclaimed

Scripture Lesson

Luke 12:32-40

Sermon offered by Pastor Adam

## Responding To The Word Of God

Responsive Hymn

“Take Time to Be Holy” #395 *(The United Methodist Hymnal)*

The Congregation Responds

*If you feel God is putting something on your heart to share with the congregation after hearing the scripture lesson or sermon, please make your way to the microphone during the final verse of the Responsive Hymn. After we finish the song you are invited to share your testimony, exhortation, story or lesson for 2-3 minutes*

Affirmation of Faith #885 *(The United Methodist Hymnal)*

The Prayers of the People and 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.**

Offering of our Time, Talents, Gifts, Resources, Prayers, & Witness

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Going Forth In God’s Mission And Grace

Sending Hymn

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” #431 *(The United Methodist Hymnal)*

Blessing and Benediction

## Announcements and Reminders

**\*\*Bible Study** meets on Sundays at 9:00am in the Fireside Room

**\*\* Jesus and Me (JAM) in Sunday School meets at 9:00am** all throughout this summer as we go through the “SCUBA:Diving into Friendship with God” Vacation Bible School curriculum

**\*\*Special Parkview Anniversary Sunday** on Sunday, August 17. We will celebrate the 55th anniversary of worshipping in our Sanctuary. We will have a special 10 am worship service and then a festive potluck with some special guests!

**\*\* “Follow” Parkview on Facebook** by first going to our new page: Parkview United Methodist Church - Turtle Lake, WI

**\*\*Youth Group** meets Wednesday starting at 3:30pm

**\*\*Topics that Matter** returns on Wednesday, September 17th—share and save the date!

Online Giving or Automatic Withdrawal can be set up through PayPal found on our website or by hovering your smartphone camera over the qr code and clicking on the link. Last Week’s Offering: \$1,447.87//Year-to-Date Giving: \$44,675.41 //2025 Budget: \$81,756.50

Let us celebrate the following Birthdays and Anniversaries this week!

Leslie Betz (8/10) Jed Monforton (8/10) Anna Hansen (8/12)

Mark & Barb Fuller anniversary (8/14) Rachele Hansen (8/15)

Ruby Nykanen (8/16) Tom & Laura Stevens anniversary (8/16)



## **Luke 12:32-40**

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Let's start with a really big question: why did the gospel author of Luke include this teaching from Jesus in his gospel?

After all, Luke and the other gospel authors had a lot of material to work with. Jesus surely said way, way, way more during his time with his disciples than what is included in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In my mind, it makes sense that the Holy Spirit was at work during the editing process, when the New Testament authors actually got around to not just passing along Jesus's teachings and examples through verbal stories but started writing them down.

The Holy Spirit surely had to help those authors and apostles craft gospels that contained the essential yet abbreviated details, conversations, teachings and actions of Jesus, whom we consider to be our Emmanuel—God among us.

Which is why we ask the big question, why did the gospel author of Luke include this teaching from Jesus in his gospel?

My hunch is that by the time Luke was writing down the gospel, it was clear that Jesus wasn't coming back as quickly as his followers expected.

In fact, a lot of the New Testament, the gospels and also the letters we call the Epistles, spend a lot of word space helping Christ followers make sense of the promise that Jesus is coming back but the mystery of why it hasn't happened yet.

It seems as though Christians in that day and age looked at the world around them, read the signs of the times, and concluded that Jesus's return was imminent. But then they were surprised and disappointed time and time again.

And so my hunch is the Holy Spirit brought to mind this teaching from Jesus that Luke and the other disciples heard likely more than once. In the decades between Jesus's resurrection and when Luke actually wrote his gospel, what Jesus says today in this passage became more and more important to know.

It's a teaching that boils down to "be ready for me but don't expect me on your timeline."

It's a teaching that was just as important in the latter years of the first century for Christians as it is for Christians in the twenty-first century.

Perhaps the return of Christ isn't something you actually think about much, let alone have any idea what waiting and expecting it means.

If so, imagine your in-laws are coming to visit. But they haven't told you the exact date. They've just said, 'We'll be there sometime in the next three months.'

Now, if you're like most people, you'd want your house to be in order for their arrival, right? You'd do the dishes, tidy up the living room, maybe even mow the lawn. But you wouldn't keep the house in a state of 'high alert' for three straight months—keeping the coffee maker on 24/7, wearing your Sunday best every day. That would be exhausting and completely impractical.

Instead, you'd keep the house in a general state of 'guest-ready' preparedness. You'd live your life, but you'd be mindful. You'd keep things clean, but not obsessively so. You'd make sure there's always a loaf of bread in the pantry and a fresh pot of coffee available. Jesus's return is like that.

He's told us he's coming, but not exactly when. And he doesn't want us to put our lives on hold, obsessively waiting and watching for him. He wants us to keep our lives in a state of 'guest-ready' preparedness—living out our daily lives with love, generosity, and a spirit of

welcome for him and for others. The best way to be ready for his arrival is to be living a life that is ready for him every single day.

Because the point of believing Jesus is coming back is not to figure out when and how he'll come back.

No, the point of believing is so that your life will be different.

What do you suppose is the best way to prepare for Jesus to return?

It is to follow Jesus and live out his teachings and examples.

To be generous with your time, talents and treasure.

To be concerned about showing and sharing the love of God and not storing and hoarding the things that you can't take with you.

To live prepared for Jesus means to live with our minds open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and our hearts open to the direction of the Spirit.

In today's passage, Jesus warns against two of the most common temptations we face. The first is to spend our lives worrying and living in fear, not believing that God wants us to have abundant life now and in life beyond death. "Have no fear little flock," Jesus assures us. "For it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," he promises.

But the second temptation we face is to squander that assurance and promise he offers us.

It could be by living selfishly or by fixating on the wrong things. And so Jesus calls us to live and focus on the right things, the things of God, which in a lot of ways means being prepared for God to come to us.

Of course, a big way Christianity interprets that is Jesus coming back to us in a final, dramatic, end-of-the-age sort of way.

But Luke writes in this passage Jesus making a very clear point that his return is not so much about a future day but a way of living every day.

This is why every generation of Christians can read these and other passages about the return of Christ and believe that they are the ones who will witness it.

Now, turns out every generation has been wrong so far, and that could very well be the case for us as well. But that's not the point. That's not the call and invitation Jesus offers.

It is to wait with faith, being generous with what we have and storing up the relationships of love with God and one another that will never perish.

It is to wait with hope, knowing that God has not and will not abandon us.

It is to wait with love, living a life we only can because God has poured out love upon us through Christ our Lord, who was and is and is yet to come.

So, let's be clear. The point isn't to stare at the sky, constantly looking for signs and trying to guess the date. The point is to look at our lives today. Are we living like Jesus is already here?

Are we generous with what we have, not because we're afraid of what we might lose, but because we trust God's provision?

Are our hearts open to the Holy Spirit's leading, seeking to love our neighbors and serve the world?

The promise of Jesus's return isn't a license to be passive; it's a command to be active. It's a call to live with a confident hope that God is with us, a radical love that changes how we see the world, and a faithful love that continues to live like Jesus, because that's the life that truly lasts. Our faith isn't about a future day; it's about a present way. And that way is the way of Christ. Amen.