

Welcome to Worship at Parkview United Methodist Church

Sunday, August 24



***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...236 Maple St. N, Turtle Lake

Pastor: Adam Woods

(608) 513-2937... pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com

Pastor Adam is on vacation this upcoming week

Ushers/Greeters: Thompson Family

Scripture Reader: Thompson Family

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

“I Love You, Lord” #2068 *(The Faith We Sing)*

“He is Exalted” #2070 *(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 12:49-56

Sermon offered by Pastor Adam

Responding To The Word Of God

Responsive Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation” #529 *(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 #886 *(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

**** “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** on Wednesday, September 17th—share and save the date!

****Fall Harvest Dinner** is Sunday, September 28. Save the date and start inviting friends, neighbors, coworkers, family and strangers.

****Blessings of the Backpacks and Prayers for the School Year** next Sunday during the 10am worship service. Bring your backpack to worship August 31 for this special time!

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: \$2,621.77//YTD Giving: \$48,663.22//2025 Budget: \$81,756.50



Let us celebrate the following Birthdays and Anniversaries this week!

Hunter Heintz (8/24) Joe Monforton (8/25) Sherry Dochniak (8/25)

Joe & Toni Monforton (8/25) Charles Peterson (8/26) Abby Monforton (8/28)

Jill Quade (8/28) Mary Beth Solum (8/28) Peyton Hansen (8/31)

Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ 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.”

⁵⁴ 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. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ 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?”

If you pay attention to my email and letter correspondence, you'll notice I always end with the sign off phrase "Grace and Peace" before signing my name.

Maybe it's just me, but I love Grace and Peace... especially the Grace and Peace that we receive through Christ. So what better way to end a letter, note, or email than to remind people of the good gifts and promises of God?

But if today's passage was a brief letter by Jesus, it would be quite jarring for him to sign off with a "Grace and Peace" –Jesus.

What are we supposed to do with Jesus's words in today's gospel?

"Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?" he asks. "No, I tell you, but rather division!"

That doesn't sound like the Jesus we know, the one we so often call and pray to as The Prince of Peace. And yet, here it is. He says what he says.

Jesus cries out, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

This is not the gentle, quiet peace we sometimes imagine when we think of the peace from Christ.

But when we think about it, maybe it shouldn't surprise us. Because the way of life Jesus asks of his followers is bound to create conflict. He asks people to forgive their enemies, to share what they have with those in need, to welcome people society has pushed aside, to tell the truth even when it's uncomfortable.

If you are already doing well under the way the world is set up, those teachings are going to sound threatening. Jesus's way is not warmly received by the powerful and power hungry, both then and now. He came to turn the world upside down, and of course that is going to cause division when the lowly are lifted up. Or the lost are found and welcomed in. Suddenly those on top or those who like the ones who have all the cards become a bit defensive and see these ways of Jesus as divisive.

This makes me think of the church I attended my first year of seminary in North Carolina, Green Street United Methodist. Back in the 1980s—the late 1980s I might add—Black woman from the neighborhood came to join the church. You would think everyone would have rejoiced. But instead, almost the entire congregation left in protest.

In the end, only fourteen members remained — a small, faithful remnant who refused to give up on the gospel's inclusiveness. It was not easy. There was grief, loss, and real division. No one who remembers those days talked about it being a time of peace.

Today, Green Street is a thriving, diverse congregation, known throughout its city as a place of welcome, justice, and joy. What once was a small remnant of a congregation grieving the divisiveness of racial integration had grown into a great gift to the community bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

That is exactly what Jesus is talking about in today's gospel. The division he names is not the goal. He's not encouraging us to stir up conflict just for the sake of it. He's

describing the reality of what happens when people take his message seriously. Not everyone is ready for that kind of welcome.

And sometimes it's not only institutions or congregations — it can happen in our personal lives, too.

I think of the person who chooses to live out their faith by forgiving someone the family still wants to hate. Suddenly there's tension at Thanksgiving dinner.

Or the teenager who insists on befriending the kid everyone else ignores — suddenly they're the one who feels left out.

Or in the workplace: an employee who refuses to cut corners or join in gossip may find themselves isolated. Speaking truth, showing compassion, or choosing honesty can sometimes make you the odd one out.

This is what Jesus is describing. The peace he gives will sometimes cause division, because it refuses to play by the rules of fear, prejudice, or selfishness.

And that's what makes Jesus's peace different. His peace is not the shallow peace of pretending everything is fine. It's not the false peace of ignoring injustice. His peace is deep and costly. It tells the truth. It heals by first naming what is broken. It comforts the lowly and confronts the mighty.

It's the sort of peace that divides the wheat from the chaff—from the good and nourishing ways of abundant life from the ideologies and isms that lead to hopelessness and hate.

The peace Jesus speaks of today doesn't set out to divide people, but it does force people to purify and pull out the things that are not of God as a refining fire does once it's kindled white hot.

Division and conflict will always accompany those who truly believe the gospel that God's love for all people and all of creation. This is why Jesus's words still sting today. Because they remind us that peace does not come without risk. Yet real peace is worth the cost.

And this is where the church comes in. We are called to continue Jesus's ministry — to lift up the people the world ignores, to welcome those the world excludes. That means asking hard questions of ourselves:

Who in our community is left out?

Does our church reflect that same exclusion of the world, or do we rise above it with a welcome that mirrors Jesus's welcome?

What would happen in our own families, workplaces, and neighborhoods if we really acted like Jesus did?

The truth is, if we live the way Jesus calls us to, it will sometimes create division. But here's the promise: Jesus is with us in the middle of it. And not only that, we have each other. Church is meant to be the place where we encourage and equip one another for

this work — and also the place we come back to when the divisions outside leave us bruised and weary.

Because following Jesus may bring division — but it also brings joy.

The good news is that the one who calls us to this way of life has already walked it himself. Jesus was “baptized with fire,” as today’s gospel says, when he went to the cross. But he rose again so that nothing — not division, not even death — could separate us from God’s love.

So what would it be like if we really let God do this work among us? To disturb us, unmake us, and refine us? It will likely cause inner turmoil and it could very well lead to outward division. But, all while we trust in the promise that the peace that breaks open our hearts, refines our lives, and purifies our ways is also the peace that heals and ultimately leads to abundant life.

Because Jesus will, in the end, give us the peace which surpasses all understanding.

He will. The question is whether we will let him.

I pray that our answer is wholeheartedly yes.

Amen.

