

wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Hymn *Our God Our Help...* #210
Matthew 20:1-16

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying,

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'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed, ecumenical p.14

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

Response *Gloria Patri* #578

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Going into the World

+Hymn *God of Grace and God...* #420

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



**Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
September 24, 2017**

+Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold type

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ candle

+Call to Worship

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

P: Sing to the Lord, sing praises to our God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

L: Glory in the holy name of the Lord; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

P: Seek the presence and strength of the Lord always.

+Opening Prayer

As we gather to worship you, O God, may we feel your presence among us and around us and within us; that we might know that you are always with us. May our worship be pleasing to you and bring glory to your name. We pray this in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray together: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the*

kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

+Hymn *O For a Thousand...* #466

Call to Confession

Confession Let us pray: **Through the life of Jesus the Christ you have shown us your Way. You call us to love one another but we love ourselves more; you call us to sacrifice for a better world, but we are complacent. Forgive us, gracious God. Lead us to give of ourselves in ways that help us grow more Christ-like and to love others as Christ loves us. (Moment of silence.)**

Assurance of Pardon

L: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

What do you complain to God about? Do you feel heard in your complaints? How is complaining different than other ways of communicating with God?

Song *Come & Fill Our Hearts* STF2157

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Special Music Solo by Kim Suer

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Give us ears to hear your word, O Lord, as well as hearts and minds open to understanding it. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, be-

cause he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but" against the LORD. ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the

What is the difference between "fairness" and "justice"? Is the landowner being "fair" or "just"?