

**CHILMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost                      October 27, 2024**

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**MEDITATION**

*“Some people come in our lives as blessings.*

*Some people come in our lives as lessons.” – Mother Teresa*

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Quiet

Introit (seated)                      *Make Me A Servant*                      #2176

\*Call to Worship (\*please stand as you are able)

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: Before the mountains were brought forth, before you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

One: A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday.

**All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice all our days.**

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations,

**All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God. Amen and amen.**

\*Hymn                      *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*                      #154

*Song: Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing—you are my own.*

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION (seated) God of wonder, you search us out and know us. When we search you out, sometimes you are hard to find. When we ask questions of you, they are often turned back on us. If we try to put you to the test, we find ourselves under the glare of your interrogating gaze. Forgive us, O God, for our lack of**

**understanding and our desire to corner you. Teach us and point us toward the paths of truth, that we might serve your church in wisdom and humility. We pray together: *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.***

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Scripture Readings (insert)

Reflection    Sean McMahon

Interlude (seated)                      *Pearl of Great Price*                      Farley/McMahon

Pastoral and Silent Prayer

Prayer Response

**THANKSGIVING**

The Offering

\*Doxology    #95

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Touch these gifts and our giving with your love, O God. Then, may the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus be served through them in our world, today, now. Amen.**

\*Hymn                      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*                      #213

Benediction (seated)

Postlude

*Please join us for Fellowship and Coffee in the Parish Hall after the service*

Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright, Pastor  
Sean McMahon, Music Director

Responsive Reading from the Seven Hymns of the Faith by  
St. Ephrem the Syrian (306-373 A.D.)

On a certain day a pearl did I take up, my brethren; I saw in it  
the mysteries of the Kingdom...I put it, my brethren, upon the  
palm of my hand, that I might examine it:

***I went to look at it on one side, and it had faces on all  
sides. I found out that the Son of God  
was incomprehensible, since He is wholly Light.***

In its brightness I beheld the Bright One Who cannot be  
clouded...

***...in its undividedness I saw the Truth which is  
undivided.***

You do not hide yourself in your nakedness, O pearl! With  
the love of you is the merchant ravished also, for he strips off  
his garments; not to cover you, seeing that your clothing is  
your light --

***Your garment is your brightness, O you that are bared!***

Scripture Readings:

**Mt. 13:45-46**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of  
fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went  
away and sold all he had and bought it.

**Revelation 21:**

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of  
heaven from God (v.2). The foundations of the city walls were  
adorned with every kind of precious stone (v. 18). And the  
twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate consisting of  
a single pearl (v. 21). Its gates will never be shut (v.25).

Pearl of Great Price by Farley / McMahon

It was two thousand years ago  
God sent His Son to die for those  
Who are crying out for love and life from the dead

He came to this earth, suffered and died  
On a cross was crucified  
O what love, He gave all He had for a pearl of great price

**Refrain:**

O glory to God we're on our way  
Going to a better place  
We'll walk and talk with saints of old  
O won't it be sweet?  
We'll stand with Peter, James and John  
Singing "the victory is won"  
When He purchased that day at Calvary  
The pearl of great price

John saw the heavens open up  
A Man with His vesture dipped in blood  
That was the Risen Jesus there who gave all He had

Our Father, He said, "Go get your Bride  
She's made herself ready all robed in white!"  
The Church is the pearl and Jesus, God's Son, who paid the great  
price

**Refrain**

O what fine gems and precious stones  
Line the walls of our heavenly home  
Where the bright glory of Our Father gives its great light

O endless day, eclipsing the night  
The gates never shut to the city that shines  
Each gate is a pearl saved by Sweet Jesus, the pearl of Great  
Price