

***Meilin English Worship***

***September 18, 2016***

***The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

***THEME FOR THE WEEK***

**Lift High the Cross: In Your Workplace!**

The life and mission of the Church is found in Christ and His cross. It is the cross that has transformed our lives with forgiveness. And it is the cross that can transform the lives of those around us. As God's people we do not lift up ourselves nor or own wisdom or morality. We lift high the cross and proclaim the love of God in Christ -- the love that sacrifices and suffers to save poor sinners like you and me. We do this through our words and our actions, as individuals and as the whole church together, by living lives that are focused and centered on the cross each day. This week we will focus on Lifting High the Cross: In Your Workplace!

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***INVOCATION & SHARING OF PEACE***

P: In the name of the Father and the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

**C: Amen**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Please greet those around you, shaking their hands and saying,

**C: “Peace be with you!**

**HYMN 2 - Come, Thou Almighty King**

***RESPONSIVE PSALM*** (Psalm 34:16-18, 22)

P:     The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,

**C:      to cut off the memory of them from the earth.**

P:      The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;

**C:      he delivers them from all their troubles.**

P:      The LORD is close to the brokenhearted

**C:      and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

P:      The LORD redeems his servants;

**C:      no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.**

**KYRIE**

P:     Lord, have mercy upon us!

**C:     Christ, have mercy upon us!**

P:     Lord, have mercy upon us!

**C:     Amen!**

**CONFESSION**

P:     The Psalm teaches us that God is against those who do evil by sinning against Him. And we know form God's Law that we are sinners. We have sinned against Him by our thoughts, our words, and our actions. And so today we need His mercy. We need to cry out to Him and ask Him to deliver us from trouble, to save us, and to redeem us so that we can take refuge in Him and avoid condemnation. For this reason, we come to Him today, confessing our sins in this moment of quiet prayer.

*(silence for personal confession)*

P:       Let us now confess our sins together:

**C:       Most merciful God, we are sinners. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, nor have we have loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have sinned by doing those things that you have commanded that we should not do, and by failing to do those things that you have commanded us to. Instead of love, we have often acted with selfishness, greed, and lust in mind. Today we come before seeking your forgiveness and the new beginning that comes by faith in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P:     Almighty God in His mercy has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you and for His sake, God forgives you all of your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore announce the grace of God to you all. Upon this, your confession, and according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C:      Amen.**

***APOSTLES’ CREED***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.   
  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***CHOIR* – I Know Whom I Have Believed**

***BIBLE READINGS***

***Amos 8:4-7***

***1 Timothy 2:1-*7**

***Luke 16:1-15***

**1**Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. **2**So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'   
**3**"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- **4**I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'   
**5**"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' **6**" 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' **7**"Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'   
**8**"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. **9**I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.   
**10**"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. **11**So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12**And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?   
**13**"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."   
**14**The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. **15**He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

***SERMON* Lift High the Cross: In Your Workplace (Amos 8)**

Pastor Shaun Daugherty

**HYMN – “Lift High The Cross”**

***RESPONSIVE PSALM*** (Psalm 46:8-10, 22)

P:      Taste and see that the LORD is good;

**C:      blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**

P:      Fear the LORD , you his saints,

**C:      for those who fear him lack nothing.**

P:      The lions may grow weak and hungry,

**C:      but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

P:      The LORD redeems his servants;

**C:      no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.**

**GLORIA PATRI**

P:      Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit;

**C:      as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**PRAYERS of the CHURCH**

P:      Let us pray that God would help us understand the true meaning of success in work and life.

           (Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P:      Merciful God, in this world we are greatly tempted. We are tempted to think only of ourselves and to seek worldly success. We are tempted to disregard the needs of others and take advantage of them. We are tempted to ignore you and your purpose for our lives and our work. Oh Lord, we pray that you would help us. Show us the true meaning of success in our life and in our work. Help us to know that our work is meant not only to gain wealth and material goods or to build up our own reputation. But instead, show us that You give us our work in order that we might use it to show love for You and to serve our neighbors. Lord, give us the wisdom to know how to work with your mission and your purpose in mind so that through our work we would give glory to you and declare the greatness of Christ and His Cross.

P:       Lord, in your Mercy.

**C:       Hear our prayers.**

P:       Let us pray that God would show us how to use our work to bless and serve others in Jesus' name.

         (Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P:     Gracious and Loving God, we desire to use our work to serve you and bless others. But often this is difficult for us. Our world operates with different goals in mind and constantly seeks to make work into a selfish and self-seeking endeavor. O God, we need your help. Show us how each one of us, in our work, can serve others. Help us to work ethically and above reproach. Help us to care about our boss, our coworkers, our employees and our customers and to pray for them. And help us to see our work as a joyful opportunity to declare your glory and love for this world through Jesus and His Cross. When we struggle with this, we ask that you would help us to encourage one another and help us also to see how you have made us lights and witnesses to your power and love, even in our own workplaces.

P: Lord, in your Mercy.

**C: Hear our prayers.**

P: Let us pray for all those people and needs that are in our thoughts at this time.

(Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P: We pray today especially for ...

P: Lord, in your Mercy.

**C: Hear our prayers.**

**The LORD's PRAYER**

P: Into your hands we entrust all for whom we pray, and we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying,

**C: 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

*Following the worship service, please greet those around you.*

*The pastor will be available to talk or pray with you in the lobby area.*

***BENEDICTION***

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His + peace. Numbers 6:24-26

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN 146 - Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing**

***DISMISSAL***

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

***ONGOING PRAYERS:***

* BLESSINGS for all new small group Bible Studies beginning soon!
* HEALTH and GUIDANCE for a member who is planning to attend college overseas.
* PEACE for a member's parents.
* WISDOM, GUIDANCE & PEACE for a brother who is seeking a relationship. Help him to know God's will and how to pursue the relationship.
* THANKSGIVING for a member who has accepted a job overseas. SAFE TRAVEL for the member and family. PROVISION of a new church to attend.
* RENEWAL of FAITH, FORGIVENESS and COMMITMENT for a sister and her husband. Help them be one in Christ, turning away from sin and following Jesus together.
* For a sister's friend to hear the GOSPEL and BELIEVE in JESUS. God have mercy on him and save him!
* COURAGE and WISDOM for all those who desire to share their faith with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.
* GROWTH in FAITH for the member's of Christian fellowship groups.
* PROVISION of a place to worship for nearby church.
* HEALTH for a sister's mother and aunt.
* HEALTH for a sister and PROVISION as she seeks your plan for her future.
* PATIENCE and PROVISION for all those who are seeking to be married and have children. God be with them and show them your love. As You provide, help them to honor Christ in their families.
* HEALING for a brother's father who has a leg injury.
* For God to GROW the CHURCH in number and in FAITH.

***NEW PRAYERS:***

* RECONCILIATION between a sister and her husband.
* STRONGER FAITH for a sister who desires to Lift High the Cross in her life.
* BLESSINGS and SAFETY for a sister who is traveling overseas next week.
* SUCCESS and BLESSING according to God's will for a sister's daughter and her business.
* HEALING for a brother who is ill with a cough; HELP for the same brother who is under stress in a new business.
* SAFE TRAVEL for a brother who is returning to his home country to renew his visa. QUICK PROVISION of the new visa and a SAFE TRIP back to China.
* THANKSGIVING for a sister's parents and their recent visit to Shenzhen and participation in worship. BLESSING, HEALTH and PROVISION for all the needs of the family.
* FAITH for a member's family and friends; GUIDANCE in work and life for the same member.
* PROVISION of a new job for a sister's family member in Thailand.
* PROVISION for a sister who is planning a trip overseas.
* STRENGTH, CONFIDENCE, and FAITH for a sister who has recently moved to Shenzhen and is looking for a job.
* PEACE and GUIDANCE for a sister who desires a CLOSER RELATIONSHIP with GOD.
* WISDOM and DIRECTION for a sister's career.
* HEALTH for a sister and her mother.
* RECOVERY of HEALTH for a sister's grandfather. Safe travel for him from his hometown to Shenzhen.
* SAFETY and SUCCESS for a brother who is on a business trip overseas.
* FAITH and PEACE for a sister's husband who is taking important exams this week. May God guide him and show him love, no matter what the outcome of the exams is.

***CONTACT:***

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GIVE:

To give an **offering**, please find an offering envelope at the back of the sanctuary, put your offering in the envelope, and mark “English Worship” on the envelope before dropping it into the offering box.

ANNOUNCMENTS:

* **Connect!** Please take time before or after worship to greet those around you. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or other volunteers so that we can help you connect. We are looking for **SMALL GROUP LEADERS** who would be willing to start new groups around the city. Are you interested in helping people connect in this way?
* **Grow!** JOIN The JOURNEY and grow in God’s Word –   
  \* Pick up a Bible Reading plan and follow along as we read God’s Word together!  
  **\*** *Join us before worship each week at 6:30pm in the front of the chapel to discuss last week’s readings.*
* **Go!** Invite a friend, family member, neighbor, classmate or coworker to English Worship next Sunday.

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**SERMON OUTLINE:**

**Lifting High the Cross in Our Workplaces.**

I. In our work, we are tempted to serve only OURSELVES by seeking WORLDLY SUCCESS.

II. In our work, we are tempted to DISREGARD the needs of others and TAKE ADVANTAGE of others.

III. In our work, we are tempted to IGNORE God's command and purpose in our work.

But, what if we didn't, and instead Lifted High the Cross by LOVING and SERVING others through our work?

**How can we Lift High the Cross in our Workplaces?**

1. Working ethically. (Above reproach!)

2. Caring about our boss, our coworkers, our employees and our customers.

3. Praying for them.

4. Seeking out opportunities to serve them and to share Good News with them.

**Next Sunday (Sept 25)**

Amos 6:1-7 | 1 Timothy 6:6-19 | Luke 16:19-31