

WEEKLY NEWS – JANUARY 13, 2021

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Greater Things"

Pastor Hans Poetschner

Jazz Sunday

Online Faith Study and Discussion at 9:00am

ONLINE FAITH STUDY AND DISCUSSION – STARTS THIS WEEK!

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Hans via Zoom on Sunday, January 17 at 9:00am.

This "study" will more of a conversation about our faith – both as an individual and as part of a faith community. Through these conversations we will reflect on our beliefs and learn to better articulate our faith.

This link will not be published on our Facebook page. If you know of someone who would like to attend please let me know and I will make sure they get the meeting link. If you have any trouble connecting with us on Sunday morning please call me at 972-7093.

POINSETTIAS

Would you like to have a poinsettia plant? We have quite a few left and would love to share them with you. Please let me know if you would like one and we can arrange a pick up time.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have an online Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31 at 11:00. The purpose of meeting will be to elect a new Deacon. The Zoom link will be posted in the weekly news the Wednesday before the meeting.

ZOOM HELP

If you have not used Zoom before or have any questions please let me know. I would be happy to walk you through the process and even have a practice meeting with you.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We live in momentous times, and find ourselves at a cross road: will what we do next be remembered as our finest hour or our darkest hour? The days when it was enough to watch the news and once every two years put a mark on paper are rapidly coming to an end. You may wonder which way to turn, but for the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ there really is only one way. The Lord teaches us "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in

heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

I find the words of our Lord clear and appropriate, but just to avoid confusion let us lay down the Lord's law as it applies to our current situation.

1. We are called to approach our polarized political situation with humility. As things are right now, it has stopped to matter who is right and who is wrong. In truth, everybody is to a certain extent right, and to a certain extent wrong.

2. We need to strive for justice wherever that may take us. And the justice of Jesus Christ is clear: it is wrong to harm others whatever they may think, whichever way they may look.

3. We cannot ever forget the first laws set before us by Jesus Christ: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” I shall freely admit that I am not that good at loving, else I would mow my neighbors' yard, and serve them breakfast in bed. But Jesus taught “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.” That I can do, and so can you. As we look at the current political conflicts judgments fly around abundantly, but as Christians we should respond with mercy.

4. Can we stay away from this conflict? No, we may be above it, but we cannot walk away from it. Do not let anger or hate touch your heart. Set an example in moderation, and let utility, not emotions guide your words and deeds. Unless our nation finds its way back to politics driven by the actual everyday needs of us, the people, it does not deserve to call itself a republic, a cause of the people.

5. The true crown to be gained by a disciple of Jesus Christ is to become a peacemaker. Call those around you to leave behind emotion, and to return to the work of democracy. If we have different opinions take a vote and let it stand. And in the true Presbyterian tradition, understanding that everybody is entitled to their opinion the minority shall accept the decision of the majority.

This is not the wimpy way. To the contrary, remember where this teaching led our brightest and best to. And do not believe for a moment that the Lord did not know that this was the hardest way for did He not teach “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Remember, the worst thing we can do at this point is nothing. Let us together stand up for the love of Jesus Christ and the peace of God which unfortunately still goes beyond our understanding.

Dear Friends in Christ, Be safe. May the Good Lord guide you by the Holy Spirit towards the love and charity of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hans

ON THE CALENDAR

Thurs. 1/14 Worship Music Committee 5:30pm

Sun. 1/17 Online Faith Study 9:00am

Sun. 1/17 Deacons Meeting 11:00am

Mon. 1/18 Finance Committee 1:00pm