

mum wage in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment. In San Francisco that figure stands at 203 hours, or the equivalent of five full-time jobs. Only one in four low-income persons who qualify for rental assistance actually receives it (*New Republic*, August 21).

UNEQUAL

CEOs in the top 350 companies in America were paid an average of \$17.2 million in 2018, an increase of 1,008 percent since 1978. During the same period the average worker's income increased by just 12 percent. The CEO-to-worker compensation in 2018 was 278:1, compared to 58:1 in 1989. The executive income increase doesn't stem from growth in company earnings; rather, it reflects the growth of the stock market and the ability of executives to pressure their boards to bolster their income. Curbing executive pay would not have a negative impact on the economy or company earnings (Economic Policy Institute, August 14).



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No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
we welcome you here.



JAZZ VESPERS

OCTOBER 13, 2019

**CARVERSVILLE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Jazz Vespers
October 13, 2019 - 5:30 PM**



“Journey” is a comprehensive metaphor or image for what the Christian life is like and most centrally about. . . . To be on a journey is to be in movement. Moving from place to place—there is change in such a life. A journey is a process that involves our whole being. It involves our feet as well as our minds and our heads. A journey involves following a path or a way. To be on a journey is not to be wandering aimlessly, though there may be times when it feels like that; people have gone on this journey before us, and there is a path, a trail, a way that we are called to. The journey image suggests that the Christian life is more like following a path than it is about believing things in our minds. . . .

The journey image involves leaving an old way of being. And for us Christians, that journey has a direction. . . . If we take the exodus story as an indicator of that journey, it’s a journey that leads from bondage to liberation. Or if we take the Jewish experience of exile in Babylon, it is a journey that leads from exile and alienation to return and homecoming, from seeing ourselves as being of little or not account to seeing ourselves as the beloved of God. Or to use the sight and light metaphors that run through scripture, a journey that leads from blindness to sight, from being in the dark to being in the lights. Or it’s a journey that leads from convention to compassion, from living our lives in accord with conventional values to living our lives in accord with the central biblical values of compassion and justice.

—From *Days of Awe and Wonder* by Marcus J. Borg

UNNECESSARY WASTE

In a study of household food waste done at Ohio State University, survey participants said they expected to eat 97 percent of the meat in their refrigerators; however, they ended up eating only about half. They expected to eat 94 percent of the vegetables but consumed just 44 percent. The study concluded that a major reason for food waste is that people misunderstand “use by” or “best by” labels, which refer to food quality not food safety. People who clean out their refrigerators more frequently also throw out more food (*Ohio State News*, August 29).

SALTY PRESERVE

Scholars are getting closer to an explanation for why the Temple Scroll, of all the 900 or so Dead Sea scrolls, is the best preserved and easiest to read. The 19 strips of leather that make up the scroll are covered with a layer of minerals and salt. This coating does not appear on any of the other 2,000- year-old scrolls nor in the caves where they were found, suggesting the scroll was deliberately coated with this inorganic matter for preservation. This discovery may provide a clue to its future preservation as well (*Science Advances*, September 6).

FUTURE CHURCH?

They may not put clergy out of business anytime soon, but robotic priests are emerging worldwide, some powered by artificial intelligence. Mindar, made of aluminum and silicone, can preach sermons and interact with the devout at a 400-year-old temple in Japan. BlessU-2 gave an automated blessing to more than 10,000 people during Germany’s celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. SanTO (Sanctified Theomorphic Operator) is a 17-inch Catholic robot that quotes from Matthew’s Gospel if someone says to it they’re worried: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (*Vox*, September 9).

THE WORKING HOMELESS

There isn’t a single county in the US where someone making a minimum wage can afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment. In Atlanta, the wage needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment is \$21.27 an hour—yet Georgia’s minimum wage is a meager \$5.15 an hour. A tenant in Boston would need to work 141 hours a week at mini-

to take the vows of saints
and get high on the thrill
of tackling dragons and giants.

Much harder in midday heat,
when perennial set-backs
take their wearisome toll,
while dark questions rise up
and insinuate angst
into the crevices of the soul.

Later comes the evening light,
the landscape softens
and lines blur a little,
we limp where once we ran
and wonder what's achieved
in one's brief life-span.

Great Source of life and time,
stay close through all the hours
of this one fleeting day,
that we may still stay true
to what we have commenced
and leave the finish up to you.

Go in peace.

MUSICAL SENDOFF *This Little Light of Mine* Harry Dixon Lose

WORTH NOTING

Source: *Christian Century*, October 9, 2019

SELFLESS

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the shooting deaths of 11 people and the wounding of seven others in October 2018 at the Tree of Life Congregation in the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. The prize came with a \$15,000 award, which the newspaper staff decided to give to the congregation to help repair its bullet-riddled temple. The reporters didn't think it was appropriate to benefit financially from coverage of the congregation's horrendous losses (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 4).

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

MUSICAL KICK OFF *That Happy Feeling* Eric Mintel

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE PSALTER *Psalms 23*

King James Version (1611)
Good News Translation (1992)
Progressive Interpretation (2019)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.
God is my personal consultant. I have it made.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

She lets me kick back and relax, knowing that with her guidance, everything will go smoothly.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.

She gives me a much-needed boost. She tells me the right way to handle things.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

Even though my job is on the line, my family is mad at me, I'm way deep in debt, and I've got a dangerously high cholesterol level, I am not sweating any of it. God's on my side. Her advice, her connections, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

*You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim.*

She's calling a conference to work things out with everybody
who is breathing down my neck; She has a plan that will get me
through it — She has it greased, and I'm gushing with gratitude.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life;
and your house will be my home as long as I live.*

Pain and heartache are ahead of me, but because of Her, surely
goodness and mercy will follow me — so I'm extending her con-
sulting contract with me indefinitely.

MUSICAL VERSION *Psalm 23* Eric Mintel

READING FROM A HEBREW PROPHET *Micah 5:1-8*

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL *Luke 18:1-8*

MUSICAL WORD *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Anonymous

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS *"Do Justice"*

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Reflections* Eric Mintel

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (MODERN
VERSION)**

Holy God, scripture reminds us that words matter and that the
way we choose our words holds within it the capacity to either
harm or heal, to wound or welcome.

**In this time when words are tossed around so casually,
may our words be used to build human community
and share love and compassion in a broken and bat-
tered world.**

Healing God, we pray for those who have been hurt by words of
hate:

**for refugees and immigrants with or without documen-
tation,
for women and girls who have endured words of sexism,**

**for people with disabilities who are told they are "less
than,"
for elderly people who are told they are useless,
for young adults who are told they are entitled, selfish,
and irresponsible.**

Living God, help us speak the truth in love
and to care for one another with the words we choose to speak.

Merciful God, we offer our words of prayer
**for the people near and dear to our hearts
as we lift them up silently before you . . .**

Listening God, we bring all our prayers to you with these
words,

**Eternal Spirit,
Source of all that is and ever shall be,
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples,
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom
flourish on earth
Until all of humankind heed your call to justice and com-
passion.**

**May we find the bread that we need for today,
And for the hurts we cause one another
May we be forgiven in the same measure that we for-
give.**

**In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;
When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure;
And thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.**

**May you reign in the power of human love,
Now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING *Pennies From Heaven* Arthur Johnston/Johnny Burke

DEPARTING COMMISSION *Discipleship*
Bruce D. Brewer
Retired Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia

It's easy in the morning sun,
when youth is awash
with hope and ideals,