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Do not forsake the work of your hands.** **ALL: Let us praise our faithful and loving God! Amen!**   \* Hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful - GtG#20   Prayer of Confession (Unison) **Generous God, we are complicit in systems that oppress and subjugate, by our indifference or inaction. Forgive us for the ways in which we have taken what is not ours and in doing so, determined in our minds who is worthy and who is not. We are not God, but you are, and so we ask for your forgiveness and for your healing in our hearts and in our world. Help us today to hear your Word in a new way that causes our feet to move, our hearts to change, and our mouths to speak. Amen.**   Silent Prayers of Confession   Words of Assurance (responsive) Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. **People: We know that we are forgiven, so we shall be at peace! Thanks be to God!**   The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)  The Proclamation of the Word   Prayer of Illumination  Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.   Scripture Lesson Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents **14**“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15**to one he gave five talents,[[f](https://gmail.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1606ba25f61bd2fff7873030&id=1bf661bf67&e=ea8fc2a60a)] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16**The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. **17**In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18**But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. **19**After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20**Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ **21**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **22**And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ **23**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **24**Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; **25**so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ **26**But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? **27**Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28**So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29**For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30**As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ Time with Young People    Sermon The Economy of Blessing   The Response to the Word   \* Hymn God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending - GtG#716  Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”**    Generous God,   And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray... .  **Our Father,** **Who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name** **Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.** **On Earth as it is in Heaven** **And give us this day our daily bread** **And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,** **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** **For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**    Offertory Prayer   Hymn I Need Thee Every Hour - GtG#735   Charge and Benediction Leader: It is not what we own, **People: Simply being yours is a blessing** Leader: It is not our wealth, **People: Let us live into that blessing** Leader: It is a joy in itself to be called your very own. **People: And in that blessing and joy, may we live accordingly, blessing others with your love.** | | |