

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. ¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

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Bush Creek Church of the Brethren
4821A Green Valley Road, Monrovia, Maryland 21770
301-865-3013 July 18, 2021

Interim Pastors:

Pastor Linda Lambert & Pastor Bill Caputo

Worship Assistant: Bob Farmer

Greeter: Bob Farmer



GATHERING MUSIC

Elwood Hipkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

Linda Spohn

***INVOCATION**

Unison

Gracious God, in love You open wide the doors and welcome us into Your presence—saints and sinners alike. You spread a table before us, filled with the richest fare—a feast of love and mercy for the body and soul. We come with joy to meet You here, to eat and drink at Your table, to taste and see Your goodness, to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives. May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving, our prayers and petitions as we worship together in Your presence. In the name of Jesus Christ, our host and Lord, **Amen.** (Ministry Matters)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jack Green

***HYMN**

Majesty (sing twice)

Majesty, worship His majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority Flow from His throne unto His own; His anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty – Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings. Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

CALL TO WORSHIP*Responsive**

Leader: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

People: We come on your invitation, seeking to be fed.

Leader: Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ

People: We come on your invitation, needing healing.

Leader: Be healed by God's gracious mercy

People: We come on your invitation, longing for forgiveness

Leader: In Jesus' Name, you are loved, healed and forgiven.

ALL: Alleluia, Praise be to God. Amen.

—Nancy Townley, on the **Ministry Matters** website.

OFFERING

Call to Give: You are the Great Provider, the Giver of all gifts; your love the only true currency. Thank you for putting money into our hands, and so we freely offer it back to you, for use in your service. We do this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The ushers will serve you now.

Offertory

Linda Spohn

*Doxology

Offertory Prayer: As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen

***HYMN** I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

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**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER****SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 22:1-14

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MESSAGE

Pastor Bill Caputo

BREAD AND CUP COMMUNION

Passing of the Bread (Please hold until all have been served)

One: When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:14-16,19)

Unison Response: As we share this bread, we affirm that we are the church, the Bride of Christ, being made ready for the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

Passing of the Cup (Please hold until all have been served)

One: After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:17-18,20)

Unison Response: As we share this cup, we affirm that we are saved by the blood of Christ and will live to be with Him at the great Banquet to come.

***HYMN**

Just As I Am vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4

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***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Pastor Bill Caputo

***POSTLUDE**

Elwood Hipkins