

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost



November 15, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

November 15, 2020

In-Person Worship TODAY: Join us for our last in-person worship service this afternoon at **3:00 PM**. Please bring your own chairs—spots will be marked on the front lawn. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Please use discretion. **Please RSVP [here](#)** so that we can plan for attendance. **In case of inclement weather**, the service will be moved inside for confirmands and their families only.

Confirmation: Lindsey Bresnahan, Chelsea Hynes, Erik Noble, and Thomas Young will be confirmed **TODAY at 3:00 PM** during the outside service. In the case of inclement weather, the service will be inside for confirmands and their immediate families only. Please pray for our confirmands.

LSMNJ Christmas Giving Tree: Please help provide Christmas gifts for families and seniors in need by either purchasing gift cards for at least \$35 from a grocery store, Walmart, or Target, returning them to St. John's by **December 2**; or purchasing gifts from LSMNJ's Amazon Smiles Christmas Gift List. To access the children's wish list: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/BO29XPGZ2EIP>, select LSMNJ as your charity, select gifts, ensure delivery by **December 7** and **CONFIRM SHIPPING ADDRESS** as LSMNJ, 3 Manhattan Dr., Burlington, NJ 08016, (609) 386-7171, **NO WEEKEND DELIVERIES**.

Online Pledge Form: Our primary mode of collecting 2021 Financial Stewardship Pledges will be online. Please fill out the Online Pledge Form <https://forms.gle/9X3dVQkh6J8MCU5v9>. You may also submit the paper pledge card in person to the church office.

Transition Town Hall on November 17 at 7:00 PM. Anticipating Pastor Moore's upcoming retirement, our congregation will be in transition. Come with your questions, thoughts, and concerns to a Zoom Town Hall meeting as we begin this process. Zoom link [here](#).

Advent at Home: We are preparing resources for you to engage in the season of Advent at home: devotional book, Advent calendar, Advent crafts, and more. To have this resource brought to your home, sign up [here](#) by **November 20**.

Church Office Closed: The church office will be closed November 23–30 for Thanksgiving. In case of emergency, please contact the pastors.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by either check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Prayer Before Worship

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Setting of Psalm 34: "I Will Bless the Lord at All Times" By Donna Garzinsky
(b. 20th C.)

Virtual Chime Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 688 Lord of Light

Verses 1, 2, 4



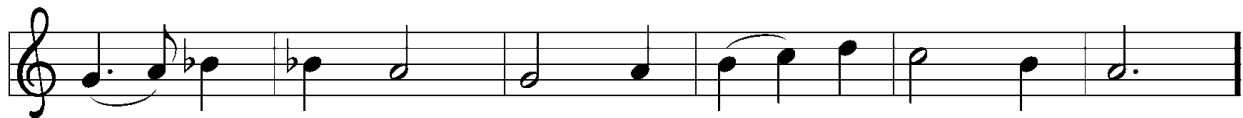
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

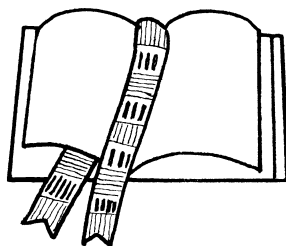
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:14–18

¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90

1. God ev - er - last - ing, at your word the hills in splen-dor rise; they
2. Our days like dreams come to an end, our sto - ry soon is told, when
3. Teach us, good Lord, to count our days, to cher - ish ev - ery hour, to
4. Lord, at your hand we have re - ceived the cup of joy and pain; pour

o - ver - sha - dow hu - man life whose glo - ry swift - ly dies.
strength is spent, and beau - ty fades, and bod - ies have grown old.
seek your will, to do your work, and trust your might - y power.
out the full - ness of your grace and we shall sing a - gain!

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to whom shall we go?—

You have the words of e-ter-nal life: Al-le-lu-ia!—

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

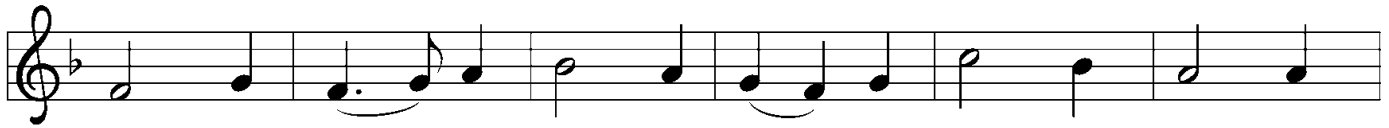
[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.’ ²¹His 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.’ ²²And 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.’ ²³His 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.’ ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore

HYMN OF THE DAY 707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, . . . **Hear our prayer. *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.***

LORD'S PRAYER

And now let us pray as our Savior taught us:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING ANTHEM "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Arr. Mark Schweizer
(1956–2019)

Virtual Adult Choir & Instrumentalists

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed.
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

OFFERTORY 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Verse 3



3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and rest upon you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 695 As Saints of Old



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Setting of *Abbot's Leigh*

By Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

Zoom Children's Time, Sundays at 9:30 AM. Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86580617100>.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on both our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

Hymns of Faith is on hiatus until December 2.

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit or our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

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Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.stjohnssummit.org
908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604

We're delighted you're worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

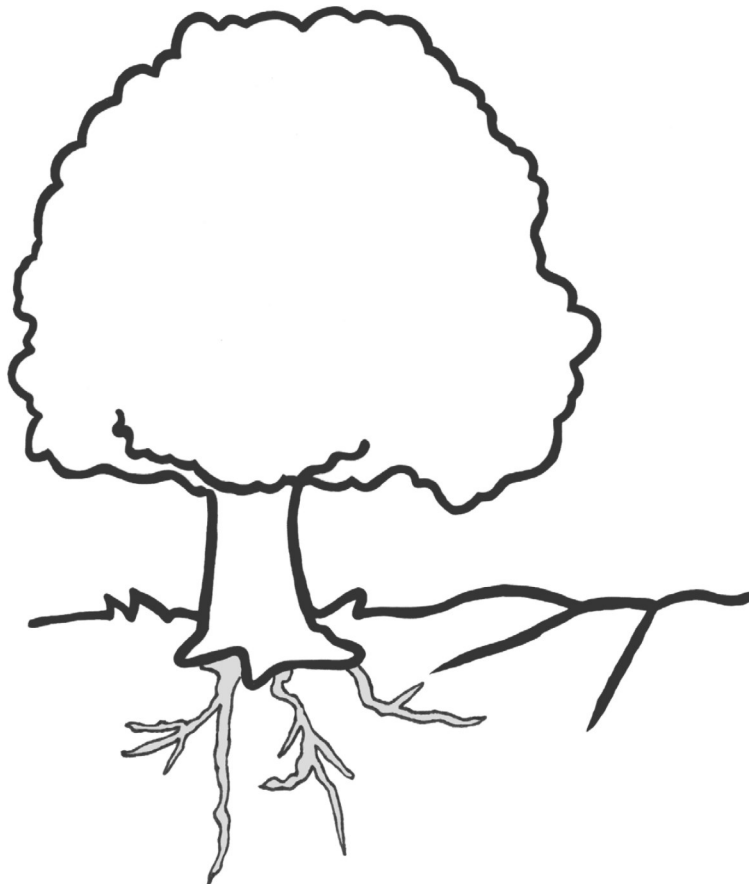


PRE-READER

Pentecost 24

- Today is the **24th Sunday** after Pentecost.
 - Pentecost is a season of **growing**.
 - God wants us to grow by **sharing** our skills and gifts.
-

Some things should not be buried, like God's love. Other things belong under the ground, like the roots of this tree. Roots make a tree strong. Draw more roots to make this tree strong.





**One servant was afraid. He dug a hole
and buried his talents.**



God tells us not to be afraid.



Color the scared man by using shaky coloring. God tells us to be brave and bold and share what we have. Color the brave men by making your coloring strong.



**Jesus knows that every one of us counts!
Count these things in your church.
Put your answers on the lines.**



How many candles? _____



How many pews or chairs? _____



How many people? _____



How many instruments? _____



How many crosses? _____



READER

Pentecost 24

- Today is the **24th** Sunday after Pentecost.
- The Pentecost season is **almost completed** for this year.
- What did you **learn about Jesus** during the season after Pentecost?

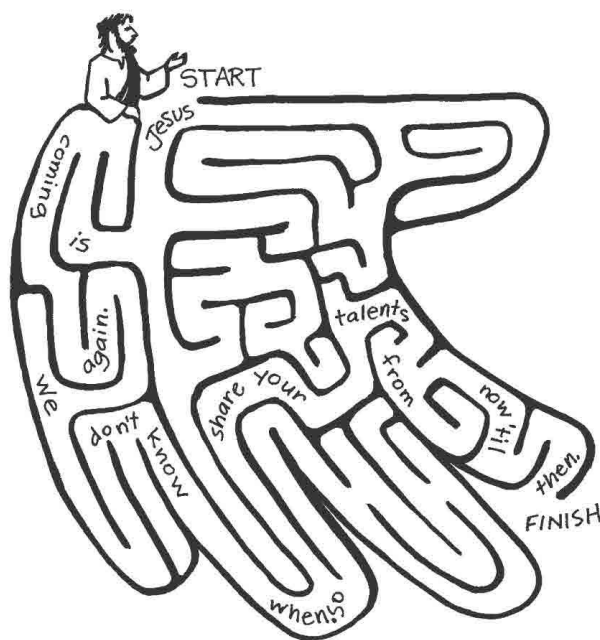
Dig It Up

Jesus tells us not to be afraid to share our gifts. Jesus doesn't want us to bury our talents. Look at the burial spaces under the Pentecost tree. Write the gifts you can share in those spaces. Jesus says, "Don't bury your talents! Don't be afraid to share!"



Follow Jesus

Following Jesus means sharing talents. Follow Jesus' footprints to uncover a poem that can help you remember to share your talents! Write the words you find, *in order*, in the space below.

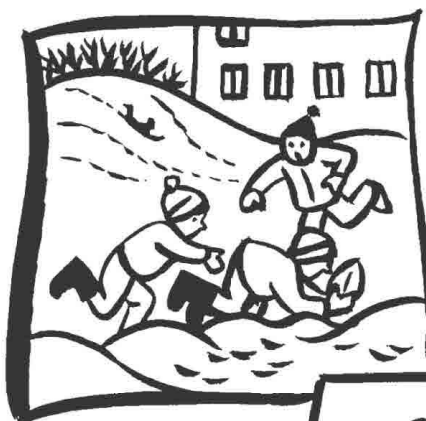


Everyday Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells another parable. This one is about using the talents God has given you to share God's love. Check out the following story. Who used their talents well?

Kelly was a player, and weekends level of the knew all th winning!



Sam, Karena, and Kelly were friends living in the same apartment building, Sam loved playing football and played anytime, anywhere.

Karena loved to act. She practiced every day, before and after school, and enjoyed finding friends to be in her plays.



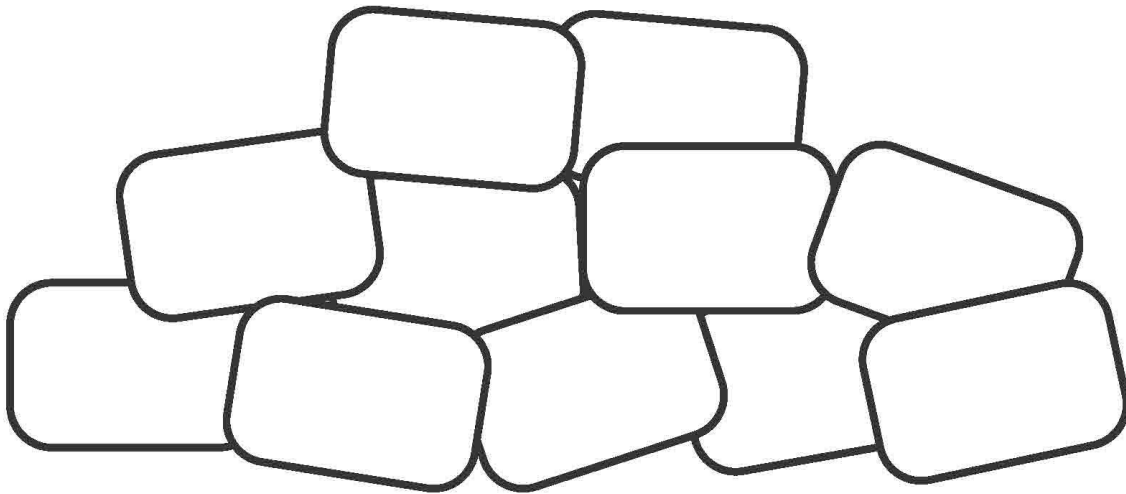
His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave."

Memory Verse



Matthew 25:21

Jesus says when we use what we are given, our love grows and grows. Write one word from the memory verse in each box to create a large pile of goodness.



n amazing videogame
I would spend time on the
working to get to the next
game she was playing. She
a secret codes and loved



Just before Christmas, a new family moved into their apartment building. Karena and Sam were the first to greet them. Before long, the new kids were creating plays with Karena and playing football in the snow with Sam.

Kelly wondered how she could be a friend. What ideas do you have for Kelly? How could Karena, Sam, and their new friends include Kelly? How might Kelly share her talents?

Write or draw your idea in the box above.

Church Talents

Have you ever heard someone say: "Oh, she's so talented"? A talent is a gift from God. It is something you are good at. What are your talents?

Look at the pictures below. Place a T next to you the ones that show a talent you have, and an F next to the pictures that show a talent of a friend.



Look at the people with you in worship. What are their talents?