

Grace Presbyterian Church

June 23, 2023

9:30 am

VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.

**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,
race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
beliefs,
and those who are cognitively
and or physically challenged.**

Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,
**each one engaged in ministry,
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,
and embodying God's love for the world.**



Welcome and announcements

Guidelines for discussions

- Wonder out loud
- Listen to understand
- Do not judge or correct -
but offer another way to think about it.
- Invite others to share

Introducing the practice

“Care for Creation; Sharing the Planet”
Questions/wonderings?

Opening Song “For the Beauty of the Earth” #14

Finding the practice in Scripture

Leviticus 23:22

22 When you harvest your land’s produce, you must not harvest all the way to the edge of your field; and don’t gather every remaining bit of your harvest. Leave these items for the poor and the immigrant; I am the Lord your God.

Ruth 2: 4-12

4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem. He said to the harvesters, “May the Lord be with you.”
And they said to him, “May the Lord bless you.”

5 Boaz said to his young man, the one who was overseeing the harvesters, “To whom does this young woman belong?”

6 The young man who was overseeing the harvesters answered, “She’s a young Moabite woman, the one who

returned with Naomi from the territory of Moab. 7 She said, 'Please let me glean so that I might gather up grain from among the bundles behind the harvesters.' She arrived and has been on her feet from the morning until now, and has sat down for only a moment."

8 Boaz said to Ruth, "Haven't you understood, my daughter? Don't go glean in another field; don't go anywhere else. Instead, stay here with my young women. 9 Keep your eyes on the field that they are harvesting and go along after them. I've ordered the young men not to assault you. Whenever you are thirsty, go to the jugs and drink from what the young men have filled."

10 Then she bowed down, face to the ground, and replied to him, "How is it that I've found favor in your eyes, that you notice me? I'm an immigrant." 11 Boaz responded to her, "Everything that you did for your mother-in-law after your husband's death has been reported fully to me: how you left behind your father, your mother, and the land of your birth, and came to a people you hadn't known beforehand. 12 May the Lord reward you[b] for your deed. May you receive a rich reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you've come to seek refuge."

Questions for discussion

How do these passages speak to the way we use the earth resources?

Matthew 25:14-30

14 "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. 15 To one he gave five valuable coins,[a] and

to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

16 "After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. 17 In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

19 "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

22 "The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

24 "Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. 25 So I was afraid. And I

hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

26 "His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? 27 In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. 28 Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. 29 Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. 30 Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

Questions

How does opportunity, fear, and greed play into our ability to share?

What risk must we take, what sacrifice must we make to create justice for the people and the planet?

Song "Touch the Earth Lightly" # 713

Finding the practice then and now (examples/illustrations)

Can you think of examples/practices?

In what ways do we as congregation share the earth's resources, are we making a statement, or plea?

Practicing the practice (active response)

Commitment to do something in the coming week to appreciate the earth, to connect with the earth, to share the

earth.

How do we (the congregation) create habits that foster the sharing of creation?

Offering

Prayers of the people

Response "Kumbaya" #472

Following Jesus (summary and Charge)

Benediction