



## Our Faith Our Vote

**September 27, 2020 – Know how your vote counts**

*Handouts – Opening prayer, Being a Civil Voice in Uncivil Times – UCC, scriptures, candidates list, closing prayer.*



Opening Prayer: (Including excerpts from the Prayer for Peace, Book of Common Prayer)

**Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Creator; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever.**

**Guide us as we study and share together to discern your presence among us in the form of our friends and let us hear your voice in all of us. Amen**

- Being a Civil Voice in Uncivil Times – UCC handout
- Share HW responses
- Scriptures related to several of last week's discussion points: attached to this outline
- How does our understanding of the scriptures inform how we vote?
- List of candidates and offices – *HW identify your candidates and research their beliefs/agenda – does this always fit "party" lines? Do they represent your beliefs? You won't have to answer this in class, so you can be brutally honest with yourself!*

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Closing Prayer – last two verses of "Courage to Break Barriers" – words by the Rev. Lawrence H. Janssen ("used by permission") as printed in the "uncommon Book of Worship", Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA (Tune – Angels from the Realms of Glory)

**High the walls that now divide us, though in distance we are near;  
From the ones God gave as neighbors, more estranged from year to year,  
Lacking love to reconcile us and remove our greed and fear.**

**Humbly, God, we now implore Thee, give us vision new of Thee,  
And the courage to break barriers to the life abundant, free.  
Grant us, God, that we may serve thee Through a life that praises Thee.**

## Scriptures – what we believe, what we live by, how we know about justice:

- **The 10 Commandments Exodus 20** And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before<sup>[a]</sup> me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

- **The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12** - So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- **John 2:13-16** – When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!”

- **The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:2-12** - He said:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### Matthew 5:31-47 - **The sheep and the goats**

<sup>31</sup> 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> 'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

<sup>37</sup> 'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

<sup>40</sup> 'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

<sup>41</sup> 'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

<sup>44</sup> 'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?"

<sup>45</sup> 'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

<sup>46</sup> 'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.