



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

June 29-July 5, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: "Filled to the Brim with Life and Hope"

<p>Notes from sermon on 6/28:</p>	<p>Things to Pray For This Week:</p>
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Household Questions:

What is the difference between happiness and joy? What is the difference between water and wine?
How does Jesus define life and how does the image of wine relate to it?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Describe an awkward moment like this wedding that was gracefully transformed.
2. What parts of our lives are water and what parts are wine? Is change possible?
3. How can we help Reveille Church prepare and work with a pastoral change?

Monday, June 29: Read John 2:1-11

This Sunday is a worship service we do not want to miss, for two reasons. First, we welcome our new lead pastor Pete Moon to the pulpit and into our hearts. Second, we won't want to miss a good story...especially one that lets us learn more about our new pastor, and even more intriguing, what his story has to do with Reveille over the past 30 years.

Our Bible shows a thing or two about how to tell a good story, and today's story of Jesus's first miracle as recorded in the gospel of John is no exception. Here we learn more about Jesus, but also what Jesus's story has to do with us. John makes Jesus's act of turning water into wine at a wedding feast the first miracle to demonstrate what Jesus has come to do. In a word, he brings life. We are the stone jars in the story, filled with water. We can survive off water, but Jesus enters in, and changes it to wine, full of color, flavor, joy, and...life.

What life has Jesus already brought us, that we enjoy today? What flavors, colors, and joy might we be foregoing because we are not turning to Jesus for meaning, healing, forgiveness, and direction? How can we embrace this new season at Reveille by more fully accepting and sharing the gift of life Jesus lived, died, and rose to give us?

Tuesday, June 30: Read John 10:7-10

We resist the life Jesus is trying to give us. We look over the gate and perceive greener pastures that require no self-sacrifice, discipline, conviction of the Spirit, or Sunday mornings. Perhaps we are already in that other pasture, and voices tell us to ignore our underlying awareness of discontent and disconnect. We 21st century Americans resist the notion that we are “sheep” in need of a shepherd, but if we look honestly at ourselves, we recognize that we all follow a master. The question is, which one? As we read in today’s scripture, following Jesus leads not only to life, but abundant life. What does that mean to you? When have you experienced it through Christ?

Wednesday, July 1: Read John 20:30-31

What does it mean to “have life in [Jesus’s] name”? Perhaps we can think of a time we were able to use someone’s name to gain admission to a club, gain access to someone, provide collateral for a loan, or be granted amnesty for a transgression. When we follow Jesus as our Messiah, the Son of God, we open ourselves to receiving the joys of God’s kingdom, a full relationship with “Abba,” God the Father, and the incredible gift of an eternal life free of condemnation and full of forgiveness for all our transgressions. What greater joy is this? Are we using Jesus’s name to its fullest?

Thursday, July 2: Read Galatians 5:1-12

So often we complicate things. We turn free gifts into sets of rules and regulations in attempts to control access to them and feel justified because we “earned” them and others didn’t. Paul railed against the new Christians turning back to old habits of circumcision and rule-following as the pathway to justification with God, when Jesus alone had already set them free. “Stand firm,” Paul pleaded, “and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Where are we turning away from the freedom and abundance of a life in Christ in order to put on a yoke of slavery that makes us feel more in control; more “worthy”? Where do we need to humble ourselves, simplify, accept, and receive? What would change if we did?

Friday, July 3: Read Psalm 100

Today we sing a psalm of pure joy and thanksgiving – one where we give thanks to the freedom and independence we have gained through Christ and the abundance of blessings we have. We keep in mind those who are still under the yokes of slavery, discrimination, illness, racism, war, sexism, and poverty, and renew our commitment to working to make disciples and build God’s kingdom on earth so everyone can live in joy and abundance. We thank God for all of God’s sheep, and recognize everyone on earth as part of our flock. We will help our congregation, our city, our nation, and our world enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and we will work to turn the conversation to praise, not complaint. We will let the world know that the Lord is good and his love endures forever, for all.

Saturday, July 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY: Scripture Memorization:

Memorize all of Psalm 100

Sunday, July 5: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Most Holy God, we confess to you that we have taken the life you have given us for granted. You came to give us life abundantly, you have changed our water to wine, and you have filled us to the brim with your grace. Time and time again, we have worked to change that wine back to water. You have given us joy and hope and we have allowed the forces within and without to steal it. You have given us grace, and in our quest for happiness instead of joy, we have kept your grace for ourselves and taken it for granted. Forgive us O Lord. By the same grace that has saved us, restore us once again into the joy of our salvation for we ask it in the strong name of Jesus.*