



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

May 3-9, 2021

Sermon by Rev. Stephen Coleman

Sermon Title: "Consenting to be More Vile"

Notes from sermon on 5/3:

To pray for this week:

Family Focus Question

How do you define the Holy Spirit and what the Holy Spirit does?

Questions for Small Groups

- 1) Describe a time in your life when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding, teaching, surprising, empowering you?
- 2) Do you think Reveille needs to be more inclusive of others and if so, how?
- 3) What truth or vision is the Holy Spirit telling you and our church at this time?

Monday, May 3: Read Acts 10:44-18

This scripture passage is often called the Pentecost to the Gentiles. It is the ending of a long story when Peter realizes that the Holy Spirit is active and present not just with the Jews but the Gentiles also. As the commentaries say, "this story represents a shift in perspective not only for Peter but for the Jewish Christians – a shift from exclusiveness to inclusiveness". But also note the element of surprise – how the Holy Spirit surprises Peter and the church, disrupts them, takes them to a place they did not expect to go.

The focus of Stephen Coleman's sermon this Sunday will be on the Holy Spirit and how it can sometimes disrupt things, challenge us and surprise us. We will be challenged to open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit to see where it may be directing us and our church to move in this day and time.

This week, all of our scripture passages will celebrate the guiding, loving presence of the Holy Spirit. As we also prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, let us think of and give thanks for the guiding voices God has sent into our lives...ones that challenged us, changed us, and loved us.

Tuesday, May 4: Read John 15: 9-11

The value of a safe, loving place to “abide” has taken on new significance in the past year as we have been quarantined in our own homes. Some of us have been by ourselves and some of us have lived in homes that felt at times to be bursting at the seams. All of us have needed to feel safety, connection, purpose, and acceptance. We pause this week to give thanks to all of the mothers who provided these things and so much more while home schooling, working, and battling with their own feelings of anxiety and isolation. Today we are called to abide in God’s love so that our joy may be complete. How has the past year allowed you to feel moments of this joy while you slowed down to abide in God?

Wednesday, May 5: Read John 15: 12-17

“I chose you.” All of us long to hear these words throughout our lives. Children wait to hear it while picking teams on the playground or finding a place to sit at lunch. High school seniors anxiously await these words from colleges. The unemployed wait to hear these words that will mean a lifeline of support for their families. We wait for these words at the end of every romantic movie, and create vows around them in holy matrimony. Being chosen empowers us, allows us to better see our self-worth, and gives us that most basic human need: to belong. “I chose you” Jesus says to his followers today. “You are my friends. Now go bear fruit...and love one another.”

As we emerge from the isolation of the pandemic, when so many have felt invisible and alone, how can we respond to Jesus’s words today by showing others they are seen, loved, and chosen?

Thursday, May 6: Read 1 John 5:1-6

A Facebook post from a member of this congregation showed pictures of her small family baby shower. Her caption was, “Today we were shown just how loved our son already is.” Being born into a loving, supportive family is one of the greatest gifts and advantages a child can have. Today’s passage from 1 John tells us that all of us have been given this gift, for we are the beloved children of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.

We know not everyone feels this love. We also know we have not always shown it to others. When a child is baptized into our church, we stand before the family and pledge our love and support of the child as one of our own. Today, God is calling us to do this for all of God’s children. How are we failing in that mission? How can we do better? Who else can we support, mentor, and champion as one of our own?

Friday, May 7: Read Psalm 98

One of the things many people say they miss most right now is live music. We long for the unity we feel with others when we can all sing and dance along to a single rhythm, a single message. We miss this at church as well, and anxiously await the Sunday when our Chancel, Youth, and Children’s Choirs can lead us in joyful song again. Today’s psalm, however, shows us ways we can recognize the joyful noise all of creation is making every day. We were created to celebrate and praise our Creator, and we can join this chorus in many ways. We can sing the praises of the people God has sent to us, including our mothers—both biological and spiritual. Let us all sing God’s praises in unity today.

Saturday, May 8: Scripture Memorization: John 15:16

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” (NRSV)

Sunday, May 9: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *God of all nations, we praise you that in Christ the barriers that have separated humanity have been torn down. **Yet we confess that have hindered the power of your Spirit,** refused to listen to your voice and failed to share your love. Forgive us for these and all our sins. Deliver us from the sins of fear and prejudice. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Holy Spirit and bind us together in unity. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.*