

Weekly Park Branches

Thursday, November 4, 2021

This Week's Sermon

"Hesed"

Scriptures

The Book of Ruth (selected verses)

Contact Us

adminoffice@parkpres.org

724-775-2936



Dear Friends,

A picture, as they say, is worth 1,000 words. And surely this image, drawn from the Book of Ruth, tells us a lot.

We can see, without the need for words, the love that Ruth, on the left, has for her mother-in-law Naomi, not just by the look in her eyes, but by how the artist has chosen to represent Ruth's cloak. It floats in the air, landing upon Naomi, surrounding her in an embrace.

Noami, we are told, has lost a husband to death. But this is not all: We are told that she has also lost both of her sons. We can see the evidence of life's hardships upon her face. There is no small hint of anxiety and deep grief in her eyes. She walks with the aid of walking stick. What lies ahead for her? The road ahead seems anything but smooth.

But, then, there is the cloak—and the look of love.

For our ancestors in faith, the word "hesed" meant an extraordinary kind of love. It spoke to the kind of love that goes beyond what is expected—or even logical—and surely Ruth embodies this sort of love. This coming Sunday offers us a rare opportunity—courtesy of the Lectionary—to turn to this often over-looked book of the Hebrew Bible, and I invite all of us to hold this image in our minds as we will turn, once again, to read of the journey that Naomi—and Ruth—make together. It is one of the most heart-warming—and instructive—of stories.

Did this story really happen? Many biblical scholars dismiss the Book of Ruth as a fairy tale.

And, yet, when you look at this picture does it not grab our souls? Have not all of us, in one way or another, been embraced by someone just when we have needed it the most? Have not each of us, in some real way, experienced "hesed" first-hand? Have we not, as some point time felt a cloak of love and care wrap around us?

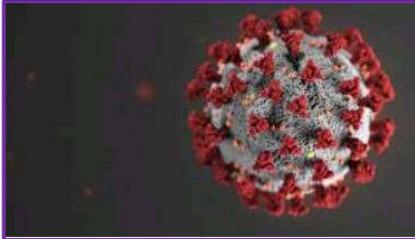
I invite you to consider—and to give thanks—for truth illustrated for us in this work,

Faithfully,
Todd

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The worship video will be available on Sunday at 11:00 am and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Pastor Todd on Sunday morning via text at 612-554 6527 or email at revallen@parkpres.org.

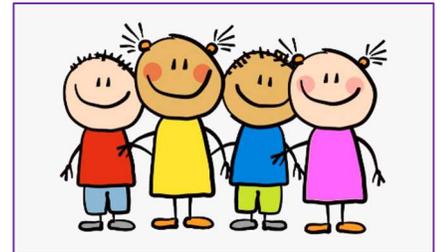
Mask Policy



Due to the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant, the Session strongly encourages masks to be worn by all, vaccinated or unvaccinated, out of consideration for fellow church members and guests. Should you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation in this new policy as we strive to serve one another well.

Nursery Helpers Needed

The Christian Nurture Commission would like our church to be a place where young families can come to worship and feel comfortable so we have opened the nursery during worship services for those who would like to utilize it. That means we need helpers to make this possible. Find a partner and sign up for a Sunday every few months. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Area. Call Susan Ivey, 724-650-5621, with questions or to volunteer.
PS The church service is piped into the nursery!



Thanksgiving Bags



Plan to pack up your Park Cares canvas bags with items for local families in need this Thanksgiving. You may bring your bags with nonperishable items to worship on November 7th or 14th and bring to the front of the sanctuary following the collection of the offering. You can also drop them off to the Gathering Area anytime prior to November 17th.

REMINDER: Time Change This Weekend

**Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends this coming weekend ...
be sure to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night!**

See you Sunday!



Monthly "Fellowship Sundays" Following Worship

Beginning next month, we will enjoy time together with friends and neighbors following worship on the first Sunday of each month. For November, there be an additional time of fellowship on the 21st, Christ the King Sunday, as we celebrate and give thanks for the Kingship of Christ and the blessings of our lives. We are seeking volunteers to host these events. A sign up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Area.



Celebrating Birthdays next week:

Todd Phillips	11/08
Chuck Copeland	11/09
Pete Steege	11/09
Kathy Johnston	11/10
Mara Fedeles	11/10
Cheryl Leonard	11/11