

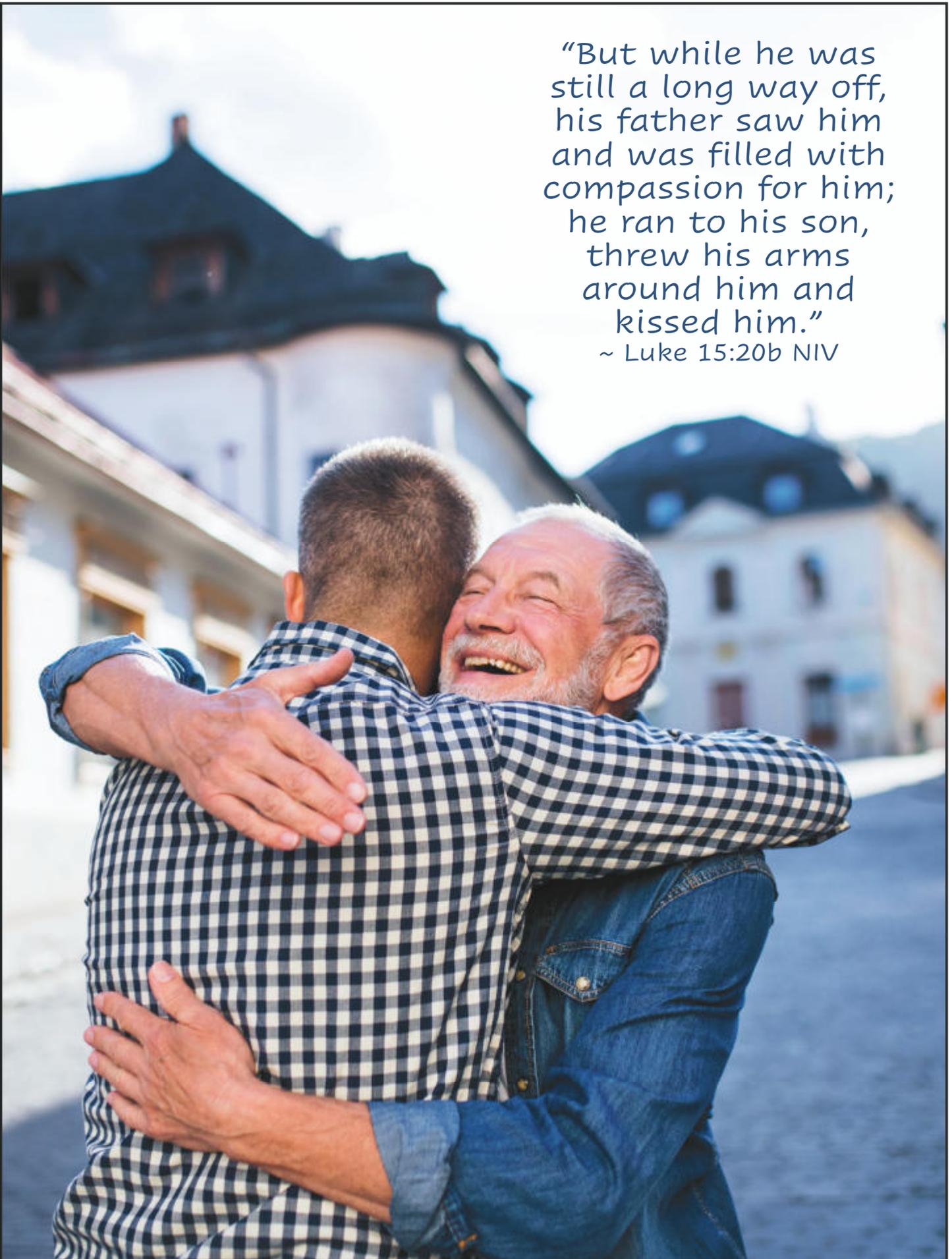
October 3, 2021



Connecting people to God's transforming love
through worship, discipleship, fellowship, and service.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

~ Luke 15:20b NIV



Sermon Notes and Growing as Disciples: October 3, 2021

Jesus The Teacher, part 3: Prodigal God / Luke 15:11-32

Key Verse: “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20b NIV

I. “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.”

- Jesus tells three stories.

II. The audience

A. A group of “older brothers”

B. “Younger brothers who are listening to the story”

C. Failing to love God

- “Do you realize, then, what Jesus is teaching? Neither son loved the father for himself. They both were using the father for their own self-centered ends rather than loving, enjoying, and serving him for his own sake. This means that you can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently.” — Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*

III. Prodigal God

A. What is a prodigal?

1. “Spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.”
2. “Having or giving something on a lavish scale.” [MS Bing online dictionary]

B. God lavishly and lovingly offers grace and relationship.

- God desires a _____ with all of us.
- God loves _____ people.
- God _____ those who are already in the fold.
- God _____ those who have been ‘lost.’
- God watches for and _____ those who come back.

IV. Jesus invites us to be like the Father.

Growing as disciples: “Eternal God, speak to each of us the word that we need, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Cleanse, quicken, and refresh our hearts; direct and increase our faith; and grant that we, by our worship at this time, may be enabled to see you more clearly, to love you more fully, and to serve you more perfectly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” Book of Worship, 1965, p. 137 #3 [Modified]

Sunday: 1 Samuel 18-19

Monday: Titus 1

Tuesday: Titus 2

Wednesday: Titus 3

Thursday: James 1

Friday: James 2

Saturday: 1 Samuel 20



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Quinn Moss
Organist/Choir Director

Austin Nichols
Director of Contemporary
Worship

Frank Provenzano
Kitchen Coordinator

Jill Spencer
Preschool Director

David Stauffer
Pastor

Front Cover: Morning at
the beach on Amelia Island.

Contact Information:
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www.morrisonumc.org

Welcome to Morrison

Thank you for spending part of your weekend with us. If you are new to Morrison and would like to learn more about our programs and community, please visit our website at www.morrisonumc.org.

Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM

The worship band will kick off the service with a few songs. Feel free to sing and to clap and move to the music as you feel comfortable. After the music, you will hear a great message. We will close with communion where all believers are welcome to participate. With that being said, feel free to grab a cup of coffee and a donut from the back, then find your seats, if you haven't already. The service will begin shortly. All -in-all, we'll be here for a little under an hour.

Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Abide with Me"

arr. R. deCosta

The first note of the prelude is our call to silent meditation.

INVOCATION

"Eternal God, speak to each of us the word that we need, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Cleanse, quicken, and refresh our hearts; direct and increase our faith; and grant that we, by our worship at this time, may be enabled to see you more clearly, to love you more fully, and to serve you more perfectly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." Book of Worship, 1965, p. 137 #3
[Modified]

HYMN 369

"Blessed Assurance"

ASSURANCE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 880 "The Nicene Creed"

GLORIA PATRI 71

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

OFFERING

We have several giving options available during this challenging time. You can mail your check to the church, or drop it in the mail slot in the front door of the office. Several options for electronic giving can be found by clicking on the giving button under the worship tab on our website at www.morrisonumc.org. Thank you for your support.

OFFERTORY

"We are One in the Lord"

Chancel Choir and Mollie Magee, flute
J. Martin

DOXOLOGY 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

MISSION STATEMENT

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32

page 1624

SERMON

*Jesus the Teacher, Part 3:
The Prodigal God*

Pastor David

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart"

arr. F. Lopez

HYMN 378

"Amazing Grace"

AMAZING GRACE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in Classical Style"

G. Young

Our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services are streamed live via our Facebook page, YouTube, and our website, www.watchmorrison.com.



Today's Reader:

Sally Zupsic



Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Bill Talley, by Jackie Talley.



We still have one available slot for 2021 sanctuary flowers. Please call Terri Hester in the office (787-3786) if you would like to sign up for December 26, 2021.

TODAY

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
10:00 AM Connect Sunday School Classes
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY

7:00 PM Church Council (Inquirer's Rm.)

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM Chancel Ringers
8:00 PM AA, Al-Anon

THURSDAY

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice
7:00 PM Worship Band Practice

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Special Note: Because of the high number of COVID cases, all scheduled church activities are subject to a last minute change.

Annual Charge Conference – October 12 at 6:30 PM at New Covenant United Methodist Church. All Church Council members are 'members' of the Charge Conference. All other interested persons are welcome to attend without vote. This is a multi-church gathering.

Ruth Circle: Meetings are scheduled to resume in October. We will meet in the same place—Plantation Oaks Restaurant, but on a different day and time—on the second Wednesday at noon. The first meeting will be on October 13. Please bring your book, Jesus' Parables of Grace by James Moore. We will discuss what book to do next and other suggestions for future meetings. Contact Pat Ramer at 352-323-6150 or Sally Zupsic at 724-561-9486 with your RSVP. Feel free to invite any ladies who might be interested. We hope you will join us as we *circle* around the table in Christian love; sharing our faith through community service and fellowship.

Worship Opportunities:

- **On Sundays**, we are offering contemporary worship at 9:00 AM and traditional worship at 11:00 AM, in person and online. In response to the high number of COVID-19 cases, face masks are requested for everyone. We ask that you please respect one another's comfort levels concerning social distancing.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate Holy Communion weekly at our 9:00 AM service, and on the first and third Sundays of each month in the traditional service (11:00 AM). If you are worshipping at home, please plan to have grape juice and some form of bread available. Pre-filled communion cups will be available for those attending in-person. If you would like pre-filled communion cups for home use, you may come by the office and we will be glad to provide them for you.

Discipleship Opportunities:

- **Adult Connect Sunday School classes:** For more information, call the church office at 352-787-3786.
 - ◇ The Inquirers' SS class - building 4, room 103
 - ◇ The Early Risers' class - building 4, room 101
 - ◇ The Connect Around the Table class - building 4, room 208
 - ◇ The Connections class - building 4, room 106
- **Bible Study:** Join us in-person on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Inquirers' classroom, or on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM via Zoom. **There is no Bible Study this week.**
- **Connected Women's Ministry Video Study:** A video lesson will be presented at 5:00 PM on Sunday, October 10 on Zoom, followed by a guided discussion. In this video, *Unexpected Metaphors for God*, author Lauren Winner explains how engaging overlooked metaphors for God can open up new avenues for spiritual growth. If interested, contact Terri at 352-978-1463 or connectedwomen352@gmail.com if interested.

Fellowship Opportunity:

- **We have a fellowship time** in the Family Life Center (bldg. 3) between the two worship services. You are invited to join us for coffee and donuts and conversations with friends.

Service Opportunities:

- **The Op Shop is looking for volunteers** who are able to work 2-4 hours, sometime during the hours of 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, please contact Brenda Jones at 352-323-3409.
- **Invitation to join our prayer ministry:** Do you pray? Do you pray for others? Would you be willing to have prayer concerns emailed to you several times a week? And if so, would you pause to pray for those concerns? If your answer is yes, please join our email prayer chain. Send an email to dstauffer@morrisonumc.org or call the church office at (352) 787-3786 and request to be added to our prayer ministry email chain.

Church office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and by appointment at other times. Face-coverings are requested when visiting the office.

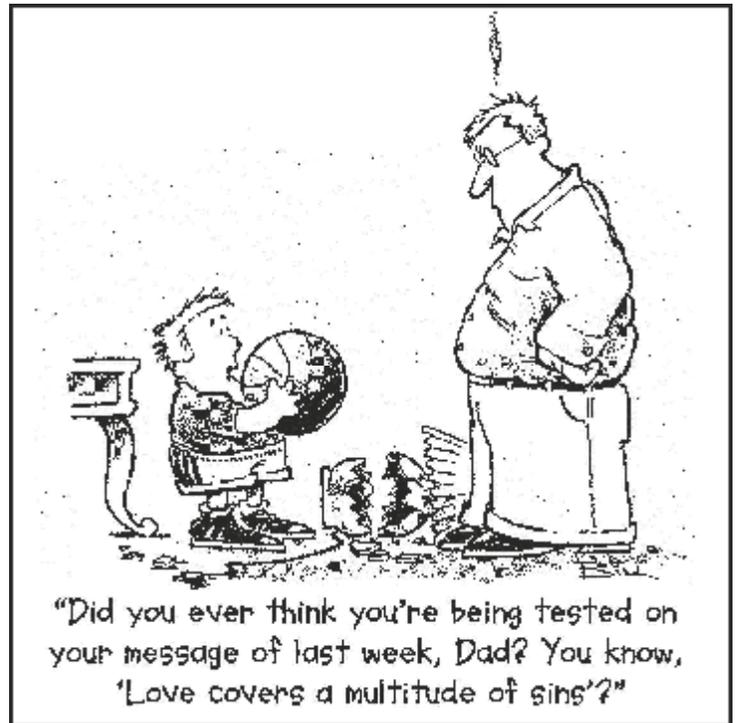
Please sign up on our website to be on our email list. Go to morrisonumc.org and click on the link to subscribe to the list. Or contact Terri Hester at 787-3786 or thester@morrisonumc.org.

You can submit your prayer requests online by going to www.morrisonumc.org and clicking on the link to submit prayer requests or through the link on our new app. If you prefer, you can call the church office with your prayer concerns.



Morrison UMC has an app! You can find it on the App Store and Google Play. If you have any questions, contact Terri Hester in the church office at 352-787-3786.

Prayer for Christian Worship: "We exalt you, our God and King; we will praise your name forever." We pray that our worship services and our very lives will give you glory and will "extol your name forever and ever." We honor you and your great works. We celebrate your "abundant goodness" and "gracious compassion." Thank you for being near to "all who call on" you. All glory and honor are yours. Amen. [Loosely based on Psalm 145]



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