

The Order of Worship

Gathering to Worship

Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

* Welcome and Call To Worship

* Opening Hymn No. 139

* Opening Prayer

* Song of Praise *Alleluia, Alleluia*

* Time of Fellowship and Greetings

Listening for God's Word

A Time for our Children

Song of Preparation

* Scripture Lessons—Ecclesiastes 2:9-11,
Matthew 16:24-27, Matthew 5:3ff

Special Music

Sermon “When the Game is Over”

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn of Response No. 451

* Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

Preparation for Prayer

Silent Prayer—Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

The Offering—Offertory

*Doxology & Benediction

* Final Song No. 671

Sermon Notes

Winning and Losing at the Game of Life

Five Simple Truths About LIFE

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11, Matthew 16:24-27, Matthew 5:3ff

So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.”

Introduction: Playing to Win

What does winning look like to you?

I. Lessons from a Disillusioned Teacher Why is Ecclesiastes an Important Book?

Wisdom from Ecclesiastes:

II. Re-thinking What It Means to Win and to Lose Examples of winners who lost...

Re-thinking the rules of the game:

III. Eulogy: What is Your Life Message? What do you want your life message to be?

Epilogue: And Then What Happened?

Living the Game of Life This Week

The simple lessons of life are just that . . . simple! Our challenge is turning lessons into habits. The challenge is met and habits begin to emerge as we spend time with God each day. Use this guide in this manner this week:

- Read the day's Scripture and reflect upon the questions.
- Read aloud and begin to memorize the memory verse.
- Pray this week's prayer (below)

Monday: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

In this passage the Apostle Paul contrast the "seen" world and the "unseen" world, calling the first temporary and the latter eternal. What does the concept of eternity mean to you? What tugs your attention away from the eternal and toward the temporary? What helps you stay focused on the unseen?

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 6:6-8

List all the goals you are working toward right now. If you attain them, which of them, if any, will go with you beyond this world? Have thought about reconsidering your goals in light of eternity?

Wednesday: Matthew 6:19-21

Where is your treasure—what do you value the most in life? Do your checkbook and your calendar reflect that value, or do they point to other things.

Thursday: Matthew 7:24-27

What are you counting on to build a solid foundation for your life? Can you identify any "sandy foundations" that have let you down? What did you learn from those times in your life?

Friday: Matthew 16:24-27

The words in this passage are Jesus'. What do you think he means when he says we are to "lose" our lives? Have you experienced or observed a situation where someone gained a great deal, but did so at great cost?

This Week's Prayer

Oh God, help me to take a good look at my life and see it as you do. Help me to understand what is eternally important and what is really not important at all. Please Lord, show me the ways I can be part of your plan for this world. Fill me with your deep peace, joy, and hope. Amen.

For Our Visitors

Welcome to First United Methodist Church! We are glad you are with us this morning.

Our desire is that in this hour of worship, you will find healing, friendship, hope, and an opportunity to give thanks and celebrate the love and blessings of God.

We believe that every service of worship should result in new understandings, new actions and new commitments. We pray that today will be such a time for you.

If you would like to know more about our church and its ministries, please feel free to contact Rev. Adams after today's service or call the church office this week. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

For Our Parents

Children bring wonderful gifts to worship and their presence is encouraging.

If you feel uncomfortable with their energy and their need to move around, a nursery is provided as well as a "Children's Church."

Children going to children's church are dismissed after the children's message.



Today's Theme:

“When the Game is Over: Winning and Losing at the Game of Life

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