A person with his hands out

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*Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 21, 2023*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: I will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

**People: With my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor: I declare that Your steadfast love is established forever;

**People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as You, O Lord?

**People: Your faithfulness surrounds You.**

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord forever.

**All: Amen and Amen.**

**Worship Music Nobody**

OPENING PRAYER

O Mighty and Ancient One, we gather knowing Your presence is always among us, but in this time and place, we call upon You here and now. Enter our homes and our hearts with thanksgiving as we come to You with praise. We call upon Your name, for You know each one of us. Guide our hearts and minds to remember Your promises and to renew our spirits to live faithfully in Your ways. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory #577

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESON Psalm 89: 1-4 MSG

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC Mary, Sweet Mary Tracy Finefrock

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

I believe that every minute of every day, God is making all things new, giving and giving and giving again. And we are called to be a part of God's work of generosity. We are called to give, to surrender your time, talent, and treasure to this God’s work of making all things new: here in our community, in our nation and the world. So, let us give as the offering is taken.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread your peace in the world. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 5: 1-20 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION I Love to Tell the Story #157

SERMON Jesus Heals an Outcast Pastor Lyle

\*CLOSING HYMN Breathe on Me, Breath of God #420

BENEDICTION

Beloved of God, healed and forgiven, blessed and strengthened: go forth to be a blessing to others, proclaiming the love and mercy of God in all that you do and say! AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Amber – breast cancer Leroy Miller – waiting ultrasound results

Margaret Bollinger -pancreatic cancer Janet Fisher Moyer - sciatica

Ron Dentzer – cancer People in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine

Lynne Elwell- surgery February 1st Keith Pettus – healing from tonsillectomy

Donna – cancer treatable Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Justin Grube – improving Sharon - brain cancer

Cindy Haines – skilled care Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Kellen – reaction to lymphoma treatment Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Faye Miller - immunotherapy for cancer Alex Wenger – treatments for leukemia

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING January 14th $2,495**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $1,400**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $3,580**

**BUDGET YTD +$780 Attendance – 41 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Council Meeting – Tuesday January 23rd 6 PM

Game Day – Thursday January 25th 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday January 27th 1030-1100

Memorial Service for Lee Elwell – Sunday January 28th 1100 AM

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Connie Rupp’s new address and phone number:

Connie Rupp Room phone: 717-354-1603

Fairmont Homes Rehab desk phone: 717-354-1881

Room 128D

333 Wheatridge Dr

Ephrata, PA 17522

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 5:14-20

Monday – Psalm 103:1-5 Thursday – Psalm 23

Tuesday – Psalm 103: 6-14 Friday – Psalm 1

Wednesday – Psalm 103: 15-22 Saturday – Mark 5: 21-34

Sermon Summary

Jesus Heals an Outcast

Jesus has crossed over the lake to the other side. Boat crossings are prevalent in Mark. He is now on the “other” side, in Gentile territory. There he meets a man possessed by demons. The man lives among the tombs, an outcast from society. He is ceremonially unclean and has broken the chains and shackles that were used to restrain him. It is actually the demons in the man that recognize Jesus as the Son of God. The man is surrounded by evil, both inside of him and around him. It seems as if there are some things that man cannot change by himself. Only God has the power to change them. Held captive by many evil forces, he is called “Legion”.

Legion is afraid of Jesus and begs him not to send them to a distant land. Instead they ask him to send them into 2000 pigs that are nearby. The pigs, filled with the demons, plunge down the hillside into the lake and are drowned. The swine herders run to tell others what has happened. When the people come to check things out, they are frightened. No mention is made about the loss of the pigs or the polluting of the lake. Instead, the people ask Jesus to leave. But the former demoniac, now clean and of sound mind, asks to accompany Jesus. Jesus tells him to go home and tell of the good things God has done for him. Meeting Jesus has changed the man’s life. The man obeyed Jesus and went to the ten cities in the area and when the people heard his story, they were amazed.

Meeting Jesus changed the demoniac’s life. It can change ours as well. Knowing Jesus changes live. But as Martin Luther said, it is one thing to know Jesus but it is another to have faith in him. Obedience, trust, love are all part of faith.

Jesus came to confront evil and restore our connection with our God. He did it for the possessed man and he can do it for us.

Let us pray:

Jesus, healer of mind and body, we sometimes suffer at the hands of physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Quiet our minds, still our hearts, and empower our bodies so that we may be whole and healed. Amen.

Sermon Quiz

1. Crossings of bodies of \_\_\_\_\_ occur often in Mark.
2. Upon leaving the boat, he meets a man possessed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The demons recognize Jesus as the \_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_.
4. They were \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and pleaded that they not be sent to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ land.
5. Jesus restored the demoniac to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life.
6. The demons were sent into 2000 \_\_\_\_ which were nearby.
7. The pigs plunged down the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the lake and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. When the people saw what had happened, they asked Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. The demoniac was sent by Jesus to tell of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ in his life.
10. Jesus came to confront the \_\_\_\_\_ in the world and in us.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus spoke in parables which were stories with a message.
2. He really wants is for people to do the will of God and redefine family.
3. Jesus invites us from far away to get up close with him to observe how a seed sprouts and grows.
4. In the Parable of the Sower, the seed falls on four kinds of soil.
5. Not everyone will understand the secret of the Kingdom of God.
6. For some, the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, and no fruit is produced.
7. Seeds that fell on good soil represent those who hear and accept God’s word.
8. Jesus tells these parables not only as the Sower of the message of this kingdom, but also as its Bearer.
9. Jesus is baffling, disruptive, and inconceivable and many reject the message of his kingdom.
10. We are good soil when we accept the seed and let it grow.