

You  
cannot  
serve  
God  
and  
wealth

LUKE 16:13





# UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH

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*Rev. Desna A. Henry Goulbourne, Interim Pastor*

*Sis. Goldine Nicholas, Vice-Chair, Board of Elders*

*Sis. Peggie Williams, Chairperson, Board of Trustees*

*Bro. Fabio Alvarez Organist/Choir Director*

**"In an atmosphere of love and unity we seek to spread the gospel through worship and service to all people."**

**Watchword for the Week: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**Psalm 113:3**

***Those who are able please stand (\*)***

**Musical Prelude**

*Bro. Fabio Alvarez*

**Introit:**

*The Chancel Choir*

**\*Call to Worship:**

*Sis. Peggie Williams*

**Leader:** God calls us to give an account of our lives.

**Response:** We humbly stand in the presence of the Righteous Judge of all people.

**Leader:** God asks us to declare our allegiance.

**Response:** We are followers of God through Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** God requires that we be followers in name and in deeds.

**Response:** We are followers of Jesus Christ and offer our worship today as a symbol of our devotion.

**\*Processional Hymn #528: "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord"**

**\*Prayer of Invocation:** O God of our salvation, grant to us your children the wisdom to know that all we need, and desire can be found in you. Spare us from vain striving after things which do not satisfy and fix our hearts on you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. We entreat you to receive our worship and hear our petitions for the sake of Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. **Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Leader:** Let us confess to God and before one another the conflicted state of our lives.

**Response:** We confess to you, O God, and before our sisters and brothers, that we have not completely abandoned our pursuit of wealth. We want to

**be your disciples, but the lure of goods, money, and power has tempted us away from focusing on advancing a way of life with which you are pleased.**

**Leader:** We sadly admit that we are often craftier in getting ahead in secular affairs than we are in spiritual matters that please God.

**Response:** Lord, we confess that we use every advantage we can get to avoid taxes, but not every opportunity to avoid temptation. Forgive our dishonest business affairs and the slack morality so evident in our lives. Although by many standards we are wealthy beyond belief, we confess that we are hardly ever satisfied with the material things we possess. We are always striving for more, bigger, and better, while others go without some of the necessities of life. While families live in one room, on the streets, or in their cars, we complain if we have to share. Forgive us our fascination with things and call us once more to the simple life – that of being content with our life in service to you.

**Leader:** We are called to make many choices in this world.

**Response:** We must choose what will be at the center of our lives.

**Leader:** There is room for only one at the center.

**Response:** We will choose God who will never leave us as material things fade away.

**Leader:** God is the One who truly satisfies the longings of our hearts.

**Response:** May we be filled with the love of God.

**Leader:** Choose God. Choose life. Choose love.

**Response:** God is our choice. God is our life. Amen.

**\*Declaration of Pardon:**

**Leader:** God offers you once again the opportunity to let go of material things and take hold of the true treasures of life. God offers you life, peace, and a joy that is not dependent on what you own. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and called to follow the Carpenter of Nazareth.

**Response:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

**Hymn # 764 vs. 1 & 3: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

1. Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;  
From selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.

3. Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

**Prayer of Intercession:**

*Sis Claire McKay (Prayer Warrior)*

**Hymn #762 vs. 4 & 6: “Just as I Am”**

Just as I am, poor, wretched blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,

Yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
Just as I am; thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down'  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**Moravian Daily Texts for Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019**    *Sis. Blondel Jones Grant*

**Welcome:** Gathered as we are, preparing to hear God's Word and offering our wholehearted worship to our Creator, let us be the family of God welcoming and bonding with one another. We extend a warm Christian greeting to visitors and members alike! (*Identification of visitors*).

**Celebrations, Anniversaries & Birthdays**

Hymn # 447 (**Persons with anniversaries & birthdays are invited to stand as we sing**)

**Announcements:**

*Sis. Blondel Jones Grant*

- The Intercessory Prayer Line is available every Monday at 8:00 pm. To join the group call 712-770-8096, code 998507 at that time.
- All members are expected to attend Bible Study sessions held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.
- **We are going to have the second walk up offering later today for the victims of hurricane Dorian.**
- **The Men's Fellowship and the Moravian Women are having brief meetings right after service.**
- **The Chancel Choir concert is today at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$20. Please get yours from any choir member and support the music ministry of the congregation.**
- **The Provincial Moravian Women will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a worship and luncheon on Saturday, September 28 at Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem. Those interested in attending are to speak with Sis. Iris Joseph regarding registration.**
- **Grace Moravian begins their revival services next Sunday Sept. 29 at 7 pm. It ends on Friday Oct. 4 and each weekday service begins at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is, "Strengthen What Remains". Flyers are on the rack.**
- On Sat. October 5<sup>th</sup> Camp Hope is having a Fall Festival for all to enjoy. Please pick up a flyer from the rack for more information.
- **Christian Action For Renewal And Development (C.A.R.D.) will be having its 19<sup>th</sup> annual awards and fund raising banquet on Friday, October 25, 2019 at Antun's Caterers Donation \$100 per person. The honorees this year will be Rev. Charles Harewood, Rev. Nigel Powell, and Bro. Winston**

Peart for their contributions to the organization. Tickets are available from any C.A.R.D member.

- Saturday Nov. 9 will be Fall Clean Up Day. A dumpster will be on the premises. Group leaders need to identify items in their stored areas that need to be discarded and begin sorting before this date.
- The Eastern District Synod will be convened on June 24-27, 2020. The theme of this synod is, "Into the World. This is the Challenge of our Mission". The congregation needs to begin to prayerfully consider who will represent us next year.
- **Sis. Esmie Fraser McLeod donated the flowers for today's service and concert.**

**Passing the peace of Christ:** The peace and contentment of God is poured into our hearts and into our lives. Let us pass these on to our brothers and sisters here today.

**\*Greeting Song #65 (MCB): "God is so Good"**

God is so good (x 3), He's so good to me.

He cares for me (x 3), He's so good to me.

He is my Lord (x 3), He's so good to me.

**Selection:** "The Old Fashion Meeting" *Sis. Vida Hamm*

**Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings**

*(Another special walk-up offering will be received today for the victims of hurricane Dorian)*

**Offertory Invitation (Unison):** We worship and adore you, God of all creation, for you hold in your hands all that is, or ever will be. There is nothing that does not belong to you, including our very lives. We will not lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and thieves break in and steal. Help us then to give our gifts wisely and not to allow them to become idols in our lives.

**Offertory Hymn #460:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**\*Offertory Response Hymn # 817: "Praise God..."**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):** O God, we offer these gifts to you, as tokens of our devotion and with the commitment to look to you and not to material goods for the fullness of our lives. In your mercy, continue to enlarge our hearts that we may give, and share freely and joyously. Amen.

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**Preparatory Hymn #505 vs.1 "O Word of God Incarnate"**

O Word of God incarnate,

O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky,  
We praise Thee for the radiance  
That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps,  
Shines on from age to age.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading (Responsive):**      **Psalm 113**      *Bro Hugh Abel*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**      **Amos 8:4-7**      *Bro. Jaiden Simon*

**\*Ascription of Praise #846: "Glory be to you, O Lord"**

**\*Gospel Reading:**      **Luke 16:1-13**      *Sis. Elfrieda Daniel*

**\*Ascription of Praise # 846: 'Praise, Praise, Praise...'**

**Sunday School Song # 176 (Master Chorus Book): "To Be Like Jesus"**

*(All Sunday School students & staff will stand and sing once & then depart for classes)*

To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me;  
In every thought and deed, this is my aim and creed.  
To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me;  
The Spirit's helping me, like Him I'll be.

**Selection:**      *The Chancel Choir*

**Sermon:** "Scheme to serve Christ"

**\* Hymn of Response # 719: "Be Thou My Vision"**

**Benediction:** Go and spread the good news that all may know the fullness of life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Share freely with others that life is more than food or wealth, then will our faith be strengthened and we will bless them on their way. **Amen.**

**\*Recessional Hymn # 752: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"**

**Musical Postlude:**      *Bro. Fabio Alvarez*

Contribution for the Choir Concert is \$20. Please show your support.

**UNITED MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
**RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2019**

**2019 Budget      \$    581,100.00**

**RECEIPTS**

**Monthly Need    \$    48,425.00**

Offering	\$   15,671.00
Church Use	4,945.00
Pledge	200.00
Miscellaneous	70.00
Annual Picnic	290.00
YOU/YAC	1,420.00
Investment Withdrawal - MMF	18,501.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$   41,097.00</u></b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Administration	\$    5,618.00
Church Operation	14,136.00
Christian Education	271.00
Committees	600.00
Fund Raising	109.00
Insurance	2,808.00
Pastoral Ministry	1,699.00
Payroll Taxes	1,100.00
Payroll Expense	9.00
Worship and Music	2,269.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b><u>\$   28,619.00</u></b>

<b>Net Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b><u>\$   12,478.00</u></b>
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**THE MORAVIAN WOMEN SEEK YOUR HELP**



**IN THEIR EFFORT TO PLACE BOOKS  
IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN AT HARLEM HOSPITAL**



**PLEASE DONATE ONLY BOOKS IN EXCELLENT  
CONDITION FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 –13. THEY CAN BE  
GIVEN TO SIS. IRIS JOSEPH OR  
SIS. MELSADIS DOLPHIN**

**THE LADIES THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Marcus Drew	1.	Gersham Sangster	17
Marquis Drew	1.	Marlene Murray	17
Donnamaria James	4	Tenisha Simon	19
Simone Merchant Taylor	7	Loretta Jones	21
Marsha Henry	9	Evelyn Lloyd	21
Eldridge Brown	10	Elfrieda Daniel	23
Anna Bishop	11	Melverton Newell	23
Trisha Simon	12	Patrick Bernard Jr.	27
Lorne Canton	12	Joel Lucas	29
Edward A. Davis	15	Keisha Merchant	30
Tyler Drew	16	Kieyen Merchant	30
Shareen Simon Edwards	17.		



<b>2019 BOARD OF ELDERS</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Title</b>		<b>Zip Codes</b>
Interim Pastor Desna Henry Goulbourne Chairperson		
Sis. Goldine Nicholas - Vice Chair		10453, 10457, 10458
Sis. Jonelle Bernard - Elders Secretary, Sunday School		Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island
Bro. Lloyd Farquharson - All Nations Groups / MMF		10467, 10469
Sis. Iris Joseph - Ushers Board Moravian Women in Ministry		10470, 10474
Bro. Stephen James Sr. YAC-YOU / Prayer Warriors		Westchester, Rockland, Connecticut
Sis. Melsadis Dolphin - Prayer Warriors / Sick and Home Bound		Manhattan
Bro. Patrick Smith Maintenance Committee		10454, 10459 , 10473
Sis. Blondel Jones Grant Chancel Choir/Asst. Secretary		10460, 10462, 10472
Bro. Hugh Abel - Men's Fellowship Social Hall Coordinator		10465, 10466, 10475
Bro. Charles Donovan- Sick & Homebound		10456, 10468
Sis. Ernestine Harris All Nations Group		10451, 10452, 10455
<b>2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>		
<b>Name</b>		<b>Title</b>
Sis. Peggie Williams		Chairperson
Bro. Patrick Bernard		Vice Chair & Treasurer
Sis. Winnifred Farquharson		Secretary
Sis. Eleanor Samuel		Asst. Secretary
Sis. Yolanda Christopher- Ex Offcr		Financial Secretary
Sis. Etta Chambers		Grants Coordinator
Sis. Jamala Hunte		Correspondence Secretary
Bro. Whitfield Nicholas		Maintenance Committee
Sis. Tracye Harvey		Asst. Correspondence Sec.
Bro. Allan Cran Joseph		

Bro. Philbert Jeffrey - Chairman of Maintenance Committee

**PRAY & GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Sis. Jannette Abel  
Sis. Joyce Anderson  
Sis. Jeromie Barnard  
Sis. Ena Billy  
Sis. Anna Bishop  
Bro. Tralane Donovan  
Sis. Henrietta Gumbs  
Ena Harris  
Sis. Millicent Hodge  
Sis. Hyacinth Isaacs  
Sis. Donna Marie James  
Sis. Carmelita Keith  
Sis. Evelyn Lloyd  
Sis. Ruby Mitchell  
Sis. Ena Morgan  
Sis. Sylvia Pigott  
Pastor Nigel Powell  
Sis. Zenna Reid  
Sis. Ethel Robinson  
McKensie Smith  
Sis. Maude Thomas  
Bro. Maynel Thompson Sr.  
Bro. Lurvey Williams

**When we are not in the best of health it is always comforting to know prayers and support are available. Remember those who are unable to join us week to week. To add them to our list of infirmed members call the church office at 212-722-2109.**

**Listening to the Sermon**

Use the space provided below to make your personal notes. Reflect prayerfully and thoughtfully on them over the coming week. Seek the help of the Holy Spirit to apply God’s truth to your heart and life.

**SERMON TITLE**

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**Main points to remember**

1.....

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2.....

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**Having heard the sermon, I have decided on the following:**

1.....

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2.....

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3.....

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# Come, O Unexpected Jesus

Shrewd? Dishonest? Clever? How can these translations coexist in the world of biblical interpretation? No one seems to agree on what this parable of the “shrewd/dishonest manager” actually means, but almost everyone agrees that it is strange. *Or is it?*

If we’ve learned anything throughout our lives as Christians, surely it is never to expect the expected from Jesus. That would be too easy. And yet, this parable is extreme. When is the last time you were reprimanded for being dishonest, responded by being even more dishonest, and then were commended for it? It simply doesn’t make sense.

It makes about as much sense as loving your enemies, throwing a party for your irresponsible son, a newborn baby who is savior of the world, an empty tomb when someone has died . . .

Whenever Jesus does or says the unexpected, I’ve learned to look for the relationships in the story. Jesus has a way of surprising us with God’s generosity in relationships. It has nothing to do with our idea of *fairness* and everything to do with God’s *grace*.

In this case, did the manager value relationships by putting them ahead of money? Did the owner care more about the manager than his bottom line? Does the radical generosity of God extend *to* and *through* those whose worth the world might question? This is a parable that leads us to more questions than answers.

May we experience God’s generosity in community as we ask, struggle, discern, and wonder together.

*Melissa Johnson, pastor, Advent Moravian Church,  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*

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## The Moravian Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2019



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