

**Verse of the day for Monday September 4, 2023 – Psalm 128: 1-2**

**1 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.**

**2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

**Read Psalm 128 for meditation and inspiration.**

***CALLED BY GOD***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

With the arrival of “Labor Day”, it seems that employment and unemployment are often topics of conversation and interest. I would like to think of a celebration we might refer to as “Calling Day” or “Vocation Day.” *Vocation* is simply the Latin word for *To Call* in a spiritual sense. Scripture speaks of each member of the church having a gift to share for the benefit of all. Frederick Buechner wrote about vocation saying: ***“Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need.”* He describes the mission that gives you your identity in service and to which you are called with these words: *“Where your feet take you, that is who you are.”***

A young man went through college dreaming of landing an executive position in his father's big manufacturing plant. On graduation day, the father took him aside and said, "Son, now you're ready to come into the family business." Immediately, the young man had visions of a big, plush office, a large staff of assistants, and a hefty executive salary. "I'll start work tomorrow, Dad," he said enthusiastically. After which, the father said, "Of course, to learn the business, you'll have to start at the bottom.

To begin with, your job will be to water the hundreds of plants located in our buildings." The son protested. "I've changed my mind. I'm not coming to work tomorrow." Later, he thought better of his decision and decided to go along with his father. And so, he accepted the job and reported for work the next day. The father hoped for the best but was concerned that despite his son's good intentions, he wouldn't stay on the job for long. But he stopped worrying when the young man showed him his new business card, which read, "PLANT MANAGER."

Now there is a growing sense of self-worth. We all are called to do ordinary things in extra-ordinary ways for our Savior and King.

You are called into the service of the King, who will give you the power and strength needed to fulfill all of His requirements.

In discipleship,



Roger.





 **WORLD WIDE COMMUNION and PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING**

 World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger global Christian Community.

World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr’s younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied, “The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936.  Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.  Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

In the Presbyterian Church USA, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday called the Peace & Global Witness Offering. You may participate in this wonderful opportunity to share God’s peace and love with the world by placing your offering in the envelopes provided in your envelope box or on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The deadline is **Sunday, October 1.**