

Media Notes

At the 8:30 a.m. worship service, there will be a Word of Witness video which I will introduce. There will be no recognition of new members at 8:30 a.m.

At the 11 a.m. worship service, we will receive new members. This includes a responsive reading from the congregation, as well as saying the Apostles' Creed responsively. There will be no Word of Witness video at 11 a.m.

There will be a sermon starter video.

Near the beginning of the sermon there will be one scripture verse for the screen.



Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about how to abide in God today.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because it reminds us that each day is significant because we abide in God's love

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the final sermon in the Today worship series. It is preached on the Sunday after the wedding of Samantha Jensen and Clint Cooper.

What are the next action steps?

Remember that each day is significant because we abide in God's love.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that God's love invites us to remain with God and God will remain with us. We love because God first loved us.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Love, Today
2. Sermon Books of the Bible

5th Sunday after the Epiphany [Green]
Today - I will abide in God's love.
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1tBYJBp>

February 8, 2015
1 John 4:13-21
Preaching Target Word Count: 2,447
Video is not available online

1. 1 John
2. James
3. John
4. Psalm
5. Revelation
6. Romans
3. Series
 1. Today
4. Speaker
 1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
 1. creation, new, love, free, sin, light, thankful, grateful, gratitude, compassion, God, abide, remain

Table of Contents

1 John 4:13-21, CEB	5
Response to Scripture	
Introduction	5
Sermon Starter Video	
Sermon Notes and Scripture Study	
Opening	6
Prayer	
Significant Days	
Today	
Remain in Love	
Transition	
I am a new creation	7
New Creation in Death	
New Creation in Life	
Transition	
I am free from sin	7
What is sin?	
God's Response to Sin	
Prevenient Grace - Before We are Aware	
Justifying Grace - Decide to Follow Jesus	
Sanctifying Grace - Growing in Faith	
Christian Perfection - Perfect Love of God and Neighbor	
Transition	
I will be a shining light.	8
Together	
Light for Others	
Light of Christ	

Transition

I am thankful **9**

Thankful for What God has Done

Thankful for God's Goodness and Grace

Transition

I will show compassion. **10**

Characters of the Good Samaritan

Love is an Action

Transition

Conclusion **10**

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Transition

Closing Prayer

1 John 4:13-21, CEB

13 This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. 15 If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. 16 We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. 17 This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love because God first loved us. 20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates a brother or sister, he is a liar, because the person who doesn't love a brother or sister who can be seen can't love God, who can't be seen. 21 This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

*** Start Sermon Timer ***

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Significant Days

Yesterday, I officiated a service of Christian marriage for a couple who began the rest of their life together. Two weeks ago, I officiated at three services of death and resurrection for people who have passed from this life to the next. As a preacher, it is an honor and responsibility to share the lives of families during these times.

You don't have to be a preacher to have important days.

Each one of us has days which are significant. What are those days for you?

- Receiving your drivers license?
- Graduating from high school or college?
- Starting a first job?
- The birth of a child?
- News of a sudden tragedy?

Today

What about today?

It may not seem significant, particularly looking over one's entire life, yet there is something special about today.

Today is a gift from God.

Today, we have the opportunity to live the way God wants us to live.

Today, we can be the people God wants us to be.

Today, we can abide in God's love.

Remain in Love

Over the past several weeks, each of the themes that we have considered can be gathered up in the passage from 1 John 4:15-16

If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.

Sometimes, our lives as Christians can be focused on that one thing – remain in God and abide in God's love.

Transition

So, I want to look back over this series and consider how each focus, connects with abiding in God's love.

I am a new creation

We began the series with the theme - I am a new creation.
When we are in Christ, we are part of the new creation.
The old is gone and the new is here.

New Creation in Death

This has implications for us some time in the future. We can look forward to a day when there will be a new heaven and a new earth and God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new."¹

New Creation in Life

We also have the opportunity to live as a part of God's kingdom while we are still on this earth. We can live as a new creation today. Through Jesus Christ, God adopts us as one of God's own children, washes us clean and makes us new. We can follow after God all of our days. This is what God offers us, today.

Transition

God's mercy is renewed every morning.
Today, we can abide in God—living as a new creation.

I am free from sin

We continued with the theme – I am free from sin.

What is sin?

Sin is when we literally miss the goal which God has for our lives.
It is an act of rebellion against God.

We can sin by what we do – our behavior, choices and actions.

We can sin by what we don't do – doing nothing in the face of evil or injustice when we have the ability to make a difference. Or as described in James 4:17,

*"It is a sin when someone knows the right thing to do and doesn't do it"*²

Sin is part of the human condition. It is something that is true for each one of us.

¹ Revelation 21:4-5, CEB.

² James 4:17, CEB.

Yet, that is not the end of the story.

God's Response to Sin

We can be free from sin because of God's grace for us in Jesus Christ. In his life, death and resurrection we are freed from the power of sin and darkness.

Prevenient Grace - Before We are Aware

As United Methodist Christians, we believe that God is at work in the lives of people before they recognize it. God was working in the life of the son, even at the beginning of the story when he asks his father for his share of the estate.

God loves us even when we are sinners.

God offers us forgiveness, even though we don't deserve it.

Justifying Grace - Decide to Follow Jesus

We can decide to live as slaves to God or a slave to sin. We have the opportunity to confess our sins, receive forgiveness, trust in God and seek to follow Jesus. We are made right with God and begin to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Sanctifying Grace - Growing in Faith

Then, we seek to follow after God all of our days. We participate in spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share and grow to love God and neighbor more deeply.

Christian Perfection - Perfect Love of God and Neighbor

By God's grace, it is possible for us to be delivered completely from slavery to sin and death and live completely as disciples of Jesus Christ. The amazing thing is that to live in this way, it takes people who know what it is like to live as slaves to sin. The only ones qualified are the ones who have experienced God's grace and forgiveness.

Transition

God's mercy is renewed every morning.

When we ask God, we can be free from sin.

Today, we can abide in God—free from sin.

I will be a shining light.

Three weeks ago, we focused on how to be a shining light today.

Together

We remembered that, together, we are the light of the world. It is all of our lights shining together that brighten the darkness.

Light for Others

We are shining light for other people, so that others might live in the light.

Light of Christ

Most importantly, we shine the light of Christ.
The scriptures tell us:

"This is the message that we have heard from [Jesus] and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all."³

"Within you is the spring of life. In your light, we see light."⁴

"Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey."⁵

Transition

It is God's light that shines through us.
Together, we can punch holes in the darkness with the light of Christ.
Today, we can abide in God and be a shining light.

I am thankful

Two weeks ago, we focused on the theme – I am thankful.

Thankful for What God has Done

We have the opportunity to be thankful today for what God has done. We find an example of this from the Old Testament as the people of Israel continue to be thankful for God's actions freeing the people from slavery in Egypt. In the New Testament, we give thanks for God sending his son as a little baby, for his death and his resurrection. All these things so that we might be able to abide in God's love.

Thankful for God's Goodness and Grace

We are also thankful, today, for God's goodness and grace. We give thanks because God is God – God is our god.

We give thanks because God is good and God's faithful love lasts forever.

³ 1 John 1:5, CEB.

⁴ Psalm 36:9, CEB.

⁵ Psalm 119:105, CEB.

This is not about being thankful for particular actions. This is about being thankful for God being good and God's posture of grace toward us.

Transition

Today, we can abide in God and be thankful for what God has done and for God's goodness and grace.

I will show compassion.

Last week, we considered the theme – I will show compassion.

Characters of the Good Samaritan

We read the story of the Good Samaritan and considered ways that we are like each of the characters at different times in our lives. More often, than not, we are most like the man on the side of the road. We mess up and turn away from God and sometimes end up spiritually half-dead along the side of the road of life.

Love is an Action

God's love is an action and knows no boundaries.

"...God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us."⁶

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish [by the side of the road] but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him."⁷

God sees us and is moved with compassion.

God is ready to pick us up, heal our wounds and set us back on the path.

Then, as we are healed by God's love, our next steps are to share this love with others by making compassion an action and caring for anyone who is in need.

Transition

Today, we can show compassion because God shows compassion for us.

Conclusion

I am a new creation.

⁶ Romans 5:8, CEB.

⁷ John 3:16-17, CEB.

I am free from sin.
I will be a shining light.
I am thankful.
I will show compassion.
All of these are possible when we remain in God...
When we abide in God's love...

Good News

The good news is that God's love invites us to remain with God and God will remain with us. We love because God first loved us.

Call to Action

Remember that each day is significant because we abide in God's love.
We can be the people God wants us to be.
We can abide in God's love.

Invitation

Today is a gift from God.
God is ready to transform us even more than we are ready to be transformed.
God's overwhelming love blesses us and sets us free,
Today.

Transition

Will you pray with me?

Closing Prayer

O God, you set us free, even when we do not deserve it.
We confess that, even today, we have said and done things that weaken our relationship with you. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.
Thank you for your son, Jesus.
Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to enliven our lives.
Please fill us with your love and help us abide with you today.
Amen.

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sermon Time		