

Lord of All Hopefulness

Jan Struther (1933)

See print copy for music & words.

Old Orchard Church

September 4, 2011 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Then Moses said
to the Israelites,
“See, the LORD
has chosen
Bezalel son of
Uri, the son of
Hur, of the tribe
of Judah, and he
has filled him
with the Spirit of
God, with
wisdom, with
understanding,
with knowledge
and with all
kinds of skills—to make artistic
designs for work in gold, silver and
bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in
wood and to engage in all kinds of
artistic craftsmanship. Exodus 35:30-33

Celebrating Jesus Christ, Lord of Our Work

God made us with ambition, God made us with energy—
filled with a passion to live, to understand,
to create and to accomplish.

Blessed be his great Name,
For the Lord has called us to work;
He has given us the stewardship of his world
And inspires us with his Spirit:
To invent, to organize, to entertain,
To buy and sell, to build, to cook,
To preach, to paint, to till, to sing, to teach—
To work, for the sake of love.
We gather to praise the Lord Almighty
For the successes of our work!
And we gather to lay the failures of our work
At the foot of Christ's cross.

Sing praise to your God as long as you live!

Alleluia!



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson:

Genesis 1 & 2

Pearlstring on Work

Ephesians 4:28; Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Timothy 5:8;
1 Timothy 4:4-6; Thessalonians 3:6-13; Colossians 3:17

Sermon Series: Disciplines of Disciples

“Fasting in an Age of Comfort Food” (part 2)

Matthew 9:14-17

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

God and Our Work

One of the great recoveries in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century was the biblical teaching that our work in the world during the week could be just as spiritual as our worship in church on the Sabbath— if it was honorable work, done with joy and skill, and done from the heart to the glory of God and for the well-being of others.

Take these thoughts of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther (1483-1546), with you into your work this week and let them shape it.

There stand God's word and command; they apply to us as well as to St. Peter. With them God orders us to work and to do whatever our calling requires. Therefore he who looks to his calling and continues to work diligently, even if good fortune is against him and success fails to come for a while, is bound to fare well in the end. For God cannot do otherwise. He delights in obedience and blesses it with success, even though He may delay doing so for a while and may test us to see whether we intend to hold fast to His command. Therefore no one should become disgruntled or unwilling, even if, like Peter, he does fish in vain for a night. (On Luke 5:1-11)

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We must note well the words of the Lord. He does say: Do not worry! But He does not say: Do not work! Worry is forbidden, but not work. In fact, we are commanded and enjoined so to work that the perspiration flows over our nose. God does not want man to be idle. (On Matthew 6:24-34)

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If God did not bless, not one hair, not a solitary wisp of straw, would grow; but there would be an end of everything. At the same time God wants me to take this stand: I would have nothing whatever if I did not plow and sow. God does not want to have success come without work and yet I am not to achieve it by my work. He does not want me to sit at home, to loaf, to commit matters to God, and to wait till a fried chicken flies into my mouth. That would be tempting God. (On Exodus 13:18)

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Your work is a very sacred matter. God delights in it, and through it He wants to bestow His blessing on you. This praise of work should be inscribed on all tools, on the forehead and the face that sweat from toiling. For the world does not consider labor a blessing. Therefore it flees and hates it...But the pious, who fear the Lord, labor with a ready and cheerful heart; for they know God's command and will. Thus a pious farmer sees this verse written on his wagon and plow, a cobbler sees it on his leather and awl, a laborer sees it on wood and iron: **“You will eat the fruit of your labor; happy you will be, and it shall be well with you.”** (On Psalm 128:2)