

Old Orchard Church

September 1, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Picture: “Jesus Helps in the Carpenter Shop” in the printed bulletin.

Woodcut is in the printed copy of bulletin.

Adam Waiting for His Co-Worker, Eve
(woodcut by Hermann Fechenbach [born 1897])

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

**Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.
How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all....**

Psalm 104:23-24

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 nurse babies,
To buy and sell, to build, to write software, 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:

Psalm 8; Genesis 3:17-19

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

Faith at Work At Work Series

A Labor Day Testimony

Matt Philip, information technology consultant

Work as Image-Bearing

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.” Gen. 3:17

In December 1940, the leaders of the churches in Britain put forward as one of the points necessary for the reconstruction of society: "That the sense of Divine vocation must be restored to a man's daily work".... Work, it seemed, was a curse and a punishment... Yet the whole of Christian doctrine centers round the great paradox of redemption, which asserts that the very pains and sorrows by which fallen man is encompassed can become the instruments of his salvation, if they are accepted and transmuted by love.... The first Adam was cursed with labor and suffering; the redemption of labor and suffering is the triumph of the second Adam—the Carpenter nailed to the cross.

We ought, perhaps, to look a little more closely at that profound and poetic account of the creation and fall of man. **“God,”** says the writer, **“made man in his own image—in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”** (Gen. 1:27). And the first thing he tells us about God, in whose image both man and woman were created, is that he was himself a creator. He made things. Not presumably, because he had to, but because he wanted to. He made light and water, and earth and birds, and fish and animals, and enjoyed what he had done. And then he made man “in his own image”—a creature in the image of a Creator. And there is indeed one thing which is quite distinctive about man: he makes things—not just one uniform set of necessary things, as a bee makes a honeycomb, but an interminable variety of different and not strictly necessary things, because he wants to. Even in this fallen and unsatisfactory life, man is still so near his divine pattern that he continually makes things, as God makes things, for the fun of it. He is *homo faber*—man the craftsman... Man is a maker, who makes things because he wants to, because he cannot fulfill his true nature if he is prevented from making things for the love of the job. He is made in the image of the Maker, and he must himself create or become something less than a man.

—Dorothy Sayers, from her essay “Vocation in Work” (1942)

