

Straight from the "Heart"

July 24, 2022



Opening Prayer Lord, we have gathered to gain greater confidence in the sufficiency of your merciful goodness, protection, and provision. We rejoice that these generous gifts will strengthen this congregation's ability to engage in ministries of peace, mercy, comfort, and truth. We dedicate them to you in gratitude for your Son, Jesus Christ, and it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship Lay Reader: Bring your cares and concerns, your anxieties and greatest fears. Bring those things that make you toss on your beds at night and tie your stomach in knots during the day. Bring your troubles and misgivings and leave them at the feet of the living God. Come and seek God first. Lay your worries on him, knowing that he is faithful in all things.

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UM Worship & Song, Leader's Edition.



Music In the midst of anything and everything we face, listen for Jesus' loving whisper of peace and let him fill your heart with joy. Let's sing...

There's Within My Heart a Melody

There's within my heart a melody Jesus whispers sweet and low:
Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still, in all of life's ebb and flow.

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know,
fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.

Though sometimes he leads through waters deep, trials fall across the way,
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep, see his footprints all the way.

Refrain

Feasting on the riches of his grace, resting neath his sheltering wing,
always looking on his smiling face, that is why I shout and sing.

Refrain

Theme Today, Jesus is going to make up a story in order to teach an important

point. This children's story which someone made up, gives a similar point.

Once upon a time, before banks, a good man was walking in the mountains and he came across a cave filled to the brim with treasures. He got really excited about all the gold and jewels and pearls and other valuable items. He was set for life. There was no other place he could keep all this treasure so he thought the cave would be the best place to keep it. But he was also afraid that someone might discover the cave and steal it all from him. So he decided he would have to guard it constantly.

The problem was, as the only guard, he could not leave his post just outside the cave. He couldn't eat or do anything else and so he started to get really sick. He realized this was no way to live, and so he decided to give away his treasure and go back to his good life.

When he re-entered the cave, he found that all the wealth there was gone, except one small gem. He couldn't understand it. But he took the small gem and went to town and crossed the path of a kind old woman who needed some help. So he gave her the gem and she had great joy. The man felt really good about that. He told her he would have given her more but all his treasure in the cave had vanished. She said, "Are you sure?"

He ventured back to the cave and found that some of the gold coins had reappeared. He gathered them up and returned to the woman and gave them to her. As they parted ways he came across an old poor man. He said, "I wish I could give you something, but I just gave it all away to someone else, and now the cave I was keeping it in is empty." "Are you sure?" said the man. He went back to the cave and discovered some jewels and a bag of gold.

The now generous man was puzzled. But the old man knew and so explained. "This is the mysterious cave of a thousand treasures. The cave mirrors what is in your heart. Many people have devoted their lives to hoarding and guarding it, working their chores and jobs only to get a paycheck or avoid discipline, and not doing their best in all they do. Then their hearts empty in their selfishness, and so does the cave. But when you fill your heart with generous goodness, the cave also begins to fill up."

Now the man understood it was better to care and share and act for others rather than just for ourselves.

(Abridged and Adapted from "The Cave of The Thousand Treasures" by Pedro Pablo Sacristan

Responsive Readings (L – Lay Reader, **C: Congregation**)

Not everyone learns this lesson, which prompted Jesus to tell this impromptu story about greed during one of his sermons...

L: A certain rich man had fertile farmland that produced an abundant harvest.

C: His barns were not big enough to store his crops.

L: “What shall I do? --- I know... I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather and store my surplus and all my belongings there.” And I’ll say to my *soul*, “You’ve got enough stored away for many years.

C: You’ve got it made. You can retire, take it easy – eat, drink, and be merry.”

L: But just then, God showed up and said, “You fool! This very night your soul will be demanded from you.

C: Now who’s going to get all the things you have prepared for yourself?”

L: This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves on earth but is not rich toward God.”

C: That’s what happens when you “fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

(Luke 12:16-21 blended from NIV, NTE, TLB, MSG)

Pastor: Job lived in circumstances that caused him to question God’s love and/or power to care. Near the end of his trauma, God gives him a series of rhetorical questions demonstrating that he is both powerful and caring. The Psalmist also proclaims God’s powerful ability to provide care... These two are blended together in this next reading. Join me again on the yellow font while Nile leads us on the white.

L: How good it is to sing to our God.

C: It is pleasant and fitting to praise him!

L: Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion’s belt? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons?

C: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

L: Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth? Who gives the wading birds wisdom or the rooster understanding?

C: Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

L: Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens when the barren ground becomes sunbaked and hard?

C: He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

L: Can you satisfy the hunger of the lions? Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

C: He provides food for cattle and for young ravens when they call.

L: The Lord sustains the humble. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

C: The LORD delights in those who worship and revere him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

(Inspired by selections from Job 38:31-41, Psalm 147:1-11)

Music God's message to Job and through the Psalmist is that he loves us and wants to care for us, and he has the power to do that – no matter what we face. Let's sing about how God takes care of us and how we can lean on and rest in him.

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain

God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.

Refrain

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you.

Refrain

Music Of course, sometimes in the frenetic pace of life we live, it is easy to lose sight of that love and care, so let's prepare our hearts for prayer by letting God invite us away from the bustle during this time of prayer and worship.

Come Away With Me

Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with its frantic pace,
to pray, reflect, and seek God's grace.
Come away with me. Come away.

Come today with thoughts of the countless ways
that God's steadfast love blesses all our days,
and join with me in silent praise.
Come away with me. Come away.

Come away with me to a quiet place,
to God's loving arms waiting to embrace
all those who come in hope of grace.
Come away with me. Come away.

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Prayers Let's Pray. Our Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus, who had the riches of heaven but left it all behind to come to us to and show us your love and friendship and help. Help us to follow his example and make the treasure of our hearts what is really important in life. Generous God, you pour out your extravagant abundance on all your creation. You provide for us things both physical and spiritual. Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth and grasp tightly to the lasting things of your kingdom. Teach us such generosity, that our legacy to the world will please you. That the gifts you pour through us may be used for the building of your kingdom. For you invite us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We know you are a true friend in our need. You lighten our burdens and heal our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened and seeking your help. **Praises and Petitions** This week we mention this request from Earl, Trudy Doyle, who is having back surgery, and we continue to pray * for the small and large farmers in the country and world, * for Sabrina Alred, * for Jan's friend Darlene, * for Mike Sharlow's nephew Angelo, * for Janice Larsen, * for Rick Talbot * for Joan, and Chris who is caring for her. * for Jewell, * for Marty Hansen * and Don Hansen – **QUILT** * and also now Jerry Weaver's niece Lauren Weaver, for whom we dedicate this quilt.

Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort, we humbly come before you to lift Lauren Weaver to the great physician, Jesus Christ. You are the one we turn to for help in moments of weakness and times of need. We ask that you be with her today and in the weeks ahead. We ask that you turn weakness into strength... suffering into compassion... sorrow into joy... and pain



into comfort. We ask that this quilt, made with loving hands and praying hearts, serve to comfort her, warm her, and remind her, that no matter the journey, she is held in the prayers of this congregation, and in your loving arms. May Lauren find trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the midst of the unknown. Let her be filled with patience and joy, removing all doubt and fear from her heart, knowing that you are beside her every moment of every day. We pray for all these things in your name Father.

Now pour out your strength and courage upon all of us, that we may be faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth and that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven as we strive to live as you taught us to pray... **LORD'S PRAYER**

Introduction to Bible Reading Daniel Whittle wrote that there are a lot of things we do not understand about God's gracious acts -- for us and within us. But we *can* know in whom we believe -- and be persuaded that he is able to keep what we've committed to him until he comes again. Jesus assures us that those who are following him can be confident of God's care.



Bible Reading

"... I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing.' Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

"And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. "Sell your possessions and give to those in need.

This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
 Luke 12:22b-34 (NLT)

Music Another way to build our confidence in God’s love and ability to care for us is to recount with joy what he has already done for us – how he has cared and carried us through the past; as The Seasonal Singers will remind us through music that all power belongs to God, and that he desires to bless us.

Special Music **Count Your Blessings**

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
 When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
 Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
 And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
 Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
 Count your blessings, name them one by one;
 Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
 Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
 Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
 And you will be singing as the days go by.

Refrain

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
 Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
 Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
 Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

Refrain

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
 Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
 Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
 Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Refrain

Sermon Covenant Living Confidence

Abundance is a relative term. Years ago, business mogul Ted Turner said in an interview, "People love money. It doesn't matter how much you've got, you want more.... look at Bill Gates, ... he's given a lot away, but I challenged him to give even more, because ... he can buy and sell both of us and then keep the change." The host said to the audience: We're live in New York with [the] *poor* Ted Turner.

When the Bible talks about economic stewardship, we tend to relegate those texts to the very rich, and almost no one thinks they fit that category. Most of the people Jesus addressed that day would consider most all of us *very* wealthy. The words apply to us. But how does it apply?

Most recognize Jesus' more familiar words about not worrying in the sermon on the mount. He begins by saying be rich toward heaven, not earth, focus on what is truly important and eternal (God) – and do not worry about your daily needs because you are much more valuable than the flowers and birds and look how God cares for them – how does worry add anything to your life? Seek God first and he will give you everything you need.

This sermon is not on the mount, it is on the plain, but he is working the same outline at this point. Initially the source of worry is about how to defend faith against opposers. But it is the same thing – we focus on worrying about things that may hinder our spiritual progress. Therefore, we should take confidence in and prioritize God who has power over our soul and whose Spirit will guide us through every trial. For God cares about even the smallest part of your life – using his remembrance of small sparrows and the hairs on our head as an example of how extremely valuable we are to him. – and Jesus is heading toward the same “don't worry about material things - consider the flowers and the ravens”

But before he can get there, he is interrupted by someone in the crowd. Maybe he couldn't hear that well, maybe he was distracted, maybe he had Jesus speak before and anticipated the “don't worry about material things, just seek God who provides” – but for whatever reason, this person calls out from the crowd.

“Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me.”
 Luke 12:13b (NLT)

Then someone in the crowd, “Teacher, make my brother give me what I want.”

This man was on the opposite page of everything Jesus was trying to say, so Jesus is, let's say, not happy. He replies,

“Man, {a label used to distance and disconnect} “Man, who made me a judge or arbiter between you?”
 Luke 12:14b (NIV)

He is saying that the authority I carry, the purpose I have come -- is not about this kind of earthly, material stuff. Jesus turns to the crowd and warns them all to

“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. [Life is not measured by how much you own.]”
 Luke 12:15b (NLT)[NIV]

A dog was crossing a bridge over a stream with a large piece of meat in his mouth. He saw his reflection in the water. Thinking it was another dog with a bigger piece of meat, he immediately dropped his meat and dived to attack the other dog. His greed cost him everything. He lost the illusion of meat he chased thinking it would make him happier. He lost the meat did have to the water. And he ended up wet and went home with his tail tucked between his legs. Beware of wanting things you aren't meant to possess, of coveting something that belongs to someone else.

Jesus warning takes the form of a different story... we heard it in the first responsive reading. A rich farmer had an abundant harvest. Decides to tear down barns and replace them with bigger ones, and then tells himself that his “soul” is secure, and he can relax. But his soul wasn’t secure because his material gains don’t transfer to a rich relationship with God.

If we study this imagery apart from the words that surround it, it may seem like Jesus is criticizing someone for working hard, doing well, and preparing for the future. Ecclesiastes 3:3 tells us there are times to tear down and times to build (in this case, bigger barns). But Jesus is warning that there is a larger issue, a spiritual emptiness which this man has foolishly ignored.

Foolish Barn Builders (F.B.B.)

We know this, first, because Jesus is using the story to illustrate his answer to the man in the crowd about the dangerous temptation of greed, and that there is more to life than the sum of the things we have.

We know this second, because in this very short story, there is a plethora of “I” and “my”. So much so that he even sought counsel only from himself and predicted the results of his plan only to himself. Not a single thought went to God who gifted him – yes, he had people working the land, but the language makes it clear this went way beyond a bumper crop - it was a miraculous crop. I liken it to when the disciples fished and

(F.B.B.) Think only of self

caught nothing, and then under Jesus' instruction caught so much they couldn't haul in their breaking nets without help from another boat.

And not a single thought to the community from whom he may profit as they purchased the crop, and perhaps it is even for them that he had been so blessed, so that the community could survive the next season. Yet he doesn't give God or others a first, second, or stray thought. He thinks only of himself.

So much was this foolish farmer counting on his material wealth that he now figures he is set not only for life, but for eternal life. We can be tempted to get so comfortable and secure with our possessions that we forget about our need for God, forget our frail mortality, forget that we can't take it with us.

It is like the story of the professional who had accumulated great riches and was convinced he could take it with him. He withdrew two large

**(F.B.B.) Confuse material gain
with spiritual security**

bags of money from the bank and told his wife to hide them in the attic; so that when he died, as his spirit rose he could grab the bags on his way up. Years later, the death occurred, and the wife was cleaning out the attic. She discovered the two large bags of money. She shook her head and said, "I knew he should have told me to hide them in the basement".

The rich fool, and sometimes we too, forget that our life is not ours. Apart from God, there is no way that we can accumulate what is needed to bring strength and safety and life to our *souls*. We cannot control our life -- we cannot add one hour to it; by worrying; or by what we own. Jesus said "what good is it ... to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit your very self?" (Luke 9:25 (NIV)). What good is it to chase after and accumulate things if the pursuit costs you the very essence of who you are meant to be... denies you the ability to fulfill your destiny?

You know the old joke about when someone says taking such a certain action will kill you. And the

Wise Barn Builders (W.B.B.)

reply comes back, "Yeah, but what a way to go". In a serious take on the joke, there were many people of the Bible, including Jesus, who boldly faced insurmountable odds that ultimately cost them their life. But, generally speaking, even if they knew it may mean death, it wasn't choosing to die or how to die, but choosing how they were going to live no matter the resistance.

Being rich is neither good nor bad, having possessions is neither good nor bad; having big and full barns is not good or bad -- what is critical -- is that in any situation and circumstance, we choose to be rich toward God. But what does that mean?

First, we do it by being grateful. Who enables the seed to germinate, who sends the sun, the rain, the soil? Granted, we artificially do some of these things today, and no doubt this farmer's hands worked diligently to cultivate his crops. But who enables the hard work? Who enables our next breath? our next heart beat? The farmer's contemplation, and ours should consider how to express our thankfulness properly and generously for God's gracious material and/or non-material blessings that he gives and/or enables us to gain.

(W.B.B.) Grateful for the gift

Jesus is now backtracking to where he was before the interruption – and continues with the words we heard from Nile -- to realize life is more than material things, and to not worry as much about our needs -- God knows and cares about all of this -- and to worry more about our generosity, for that is how we securely invest in the eternal kingdom.

(W.B.B.) Invest in and for others

Thanksgiving for blessings already given helps establish a confidence that what God has provided, he can provide again, which leads to a willingness to invest the resources God has given to us to accomplish His will, because this is why He has given us these blessings in the first place. For our provision yes, but if there is extra -- to provide for true needs of others whose (to keep the metaphor of the story) whose crop has failed -- who have had unfortunate setbacks in life.

In 1783, French general and politician Marquis de Lafayette managed to fill his barns with wheat despite a generally poor harvest in the area. One of the workers said, "The bad harvest has raised the price of wheat, it is the time to sell." Lafayette thought about the hungry peasants in the surrounding villages and said, "No, this is the time to give". He invested in his community.

True treasures are found when we invest ourselves in the lives of people -- meeting needs by exercising the gifts God has given us and the skills he has enabled us to learn and perform. We may discover the treasure of Christ-in-others as we gratefully and generously invest our lives in each person that Christ places across our path.

Robert Fulghum, of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, admits that success is a challenge, and the challenge is to be a good steward. He said, "I don't think I should be given extra credit for doing [the charity work that I do]," he says. "I think you should think ill of me if I didn't do that."

**(W.B.B.) Generous in
resources and/or deeds**

When God blesses us with life itself and so much more -- The wise way to build our spiritual storehouse is -- well those who were here or watched last week -- remember that covenant living is to be blessed so that we can be a blessing to all the nations... so we build our spiritual storehouse by seriously considering the wonderful privilege of how we can invest the blessings he has provided for us to work with to be a blessing for others.. It may include material wealth, or we may have only spiritual gifts, skills, talents, and time, as the means by which we can invest our lives in others -- beginning with those right in our own household.

Paul advises us (in 1 Timothy 6:17-19) to not to be arrogant or to put our hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment, and that we should be rich in good deeds, and generous and willing to share -- and allow us to take hold of life that is truly life. Or as Art Linkletter once described spiritual richness as the desire to: Do a little more than you're paid to; Give a little more than you have to; Try a little harder than you want to; Aim a little higher than you think possible; And give a lot of thanks to God for health, family and friends --- [because we aren't in it for the money -- we are in it for how we can contribute to our world].

When we give ourselves fully to the Lord, all other giving becomes easier and falls into place. God calls us to be generous with whatever resources and or abilities we do have. Let's give thanks for that which we have been blessed, and out of the abundance of what we have, continue to use our resources to sow seeds of compassionate generosity to God and to our communities.

Communion

Invitation Among other things, communion reminds us that Jesus, filled with thanks for his heavenly Father, left the glories of heaven to invest his life in each of us in a way that our lives can be in his hands. Reconciled and restored, we have an opportunity to be rich toward God by accepting his invitation to be in a covenant relationship with him and for others -- and because it is an invitation, it is open to *all* people who desire to watch over his blessings as good stewards in order to become [or become more] *spiritually* rich and in so doing, a blessing to others. Let's prepare our hearts and minds by a time of confession. Let's pray...

Confession God of grace, too often we fall into the trap of letting our possessions, or desire for them, define our purpose. Cars become more important than the people who ride in them. Homes seclude us rather than open us up to welcome

others. Forgive us when we forget that you provide -- so that we may also serve our families, our neighbors, and your world. We live under the illusion that our time is ours. Save us from what we think we can possess and control. Teach us not to try and hoard our lives only to ourselves, but to share ourselves with others as we trust in your care. God of blessing, save us from all we think we own, and from what ends up owning us. Free us to know that we are more than our possessions. Free us to live to more than ourselves. As we raise our private confessions and needs to you, remind us again how spiritually rich we are in need of becoming, and how to begin getting there...

Assurance Friends in Christ, God loves us not because of what belongs to us, but because we belong to God. In this truth, Jesus offers to make us a new creation – leads in ways that invite us to new living! Know that you are forgiven by God's grace, and called to a spiritual journey in God's grace. When we give all of ourselves to him, living becomes more meaningful because all things start falling into their proper place and perspective. Let's continue preparing our hearts by singing of our trust to place all of ourselves in his hands...

Music

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender; all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

Refrain

I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee,
my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now.

Refrain

All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power; let thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain

The Great Thanksgiving So now let all draw near to our Lord in faith with sincere hearts, keep the solemn feast and feed on his promise.

Father, we know that you are with us. We give you thanks, for you have planted your holy name in our hearts. You have created everything for your pleasure and given us food for all our days when you gave Christ, the eternal bread.

Jesus, you are the master of the feast, and you yourself are the feast – the manna that comes from heaven to make your nature known and nourish us with the immortal. In this barren wilderness of a fallen world, you have spread a table -- furnished with richest grace – with whate'er our souls may need. May every soul remember that for us you were offered up and slain. Through you we are forgiven, you have purged us of all our sin, that in us it can no longer stay. Continue to sustain us and strengthen us by your love. Now welcome the humblest guest and comfort every heart as you give to us the living bread to eat and cup to drink.

Eternal Spirit, descend with your blessings, reveal your pardoning love – meet with us that we may receive your gifts and graces. Fill our thoughts with holy things and our hearts with joy. Make these gifts of bread and cup be for us the body and blood of Christ, that in eating and drinking, we may participate in his sacrifice and in his nature, taking on the virtues of Christ's life, and live the life of holiness, until we reach the courts above and keep the feast forever there.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Jesus invited his disciples into an upper room on the night he was betrayed. he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [Take and eat].



When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [Take and Drink]....

Prayer Now God, all praise goes to you, in whom we have believed, the tokens of whose dying love we have even now received. Through it, we have tasted a pledge of our glorious bliss – of heaven begun here below. We lift our heads and know that you are near. We feel our dear Redeemer's love. We sense the salvation we receive

from our heavenly Father who sits on the throne – given through his triumphant Son – Jesus Christ,

Music [who continues to whisper to us “Peace, be still”] Let’s sing

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go.

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Blessing Go now with purpose, and God will honor the dedicated offering of your lives. Go in love and peace, for it is the gift of God to those whose hearts and minds are rich in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.