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FM 99.1**

**THE STORY: OUR STORY AND GOD'S STORY
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 5, 2020**

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul: **C: And all that is within me, bless His holy name.**

HYMN: "Baptized in Water", WOV 693

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, who gave Your Holy Spirit to the apostles, grant us that same Spirit that we may live in faith, abide in peace, and share the Gospel story with all we meet; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 107:1-43, *The Lord redeems*

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble. ³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; ⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. ⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ⁹For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

¹⁰Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, ¹¹for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹²So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. ¹³Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

¹⁵Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

¹⁶For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

¹⁷Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction; ¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁰He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction. ²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ²²And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

²³Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; ²⁴they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. ²⁵For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; ²⁷they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. ²⁸Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. ³¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ³²Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

³³He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, ³⁴a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants. ³⁵He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. ³⁶And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; ³⁷they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. ³⁸By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. ³⁹When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow, ⁴⁰he pours contempt on princes and makes them wander in trackless wastes; ⁴¹but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks. ⁴²The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth. ⁴³Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

SECOND LESSON: Acts 2:38-47, *The first Christians*

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20, *The Great Commission*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living” LBW 557

**Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us, Who still guides us on to end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, His light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished, As forward we travel from light into light.**

**His law he enforces, The stars in their courses And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains, The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing Our love and rejoicing; With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving: “To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

PRAYERS

Prayers and intercessions are said by the pastor. In concluding the prayers the pastor says:

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen**

DISMISSAL HYMN: “I Love to Tell the Story” LBW 390

**I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do.**

Refrain:

I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory And tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.

**I love to tell the story; How pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard
The message of salvation From God’s own holy Word. *Refrain:***

**I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I’ll sing the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain:***

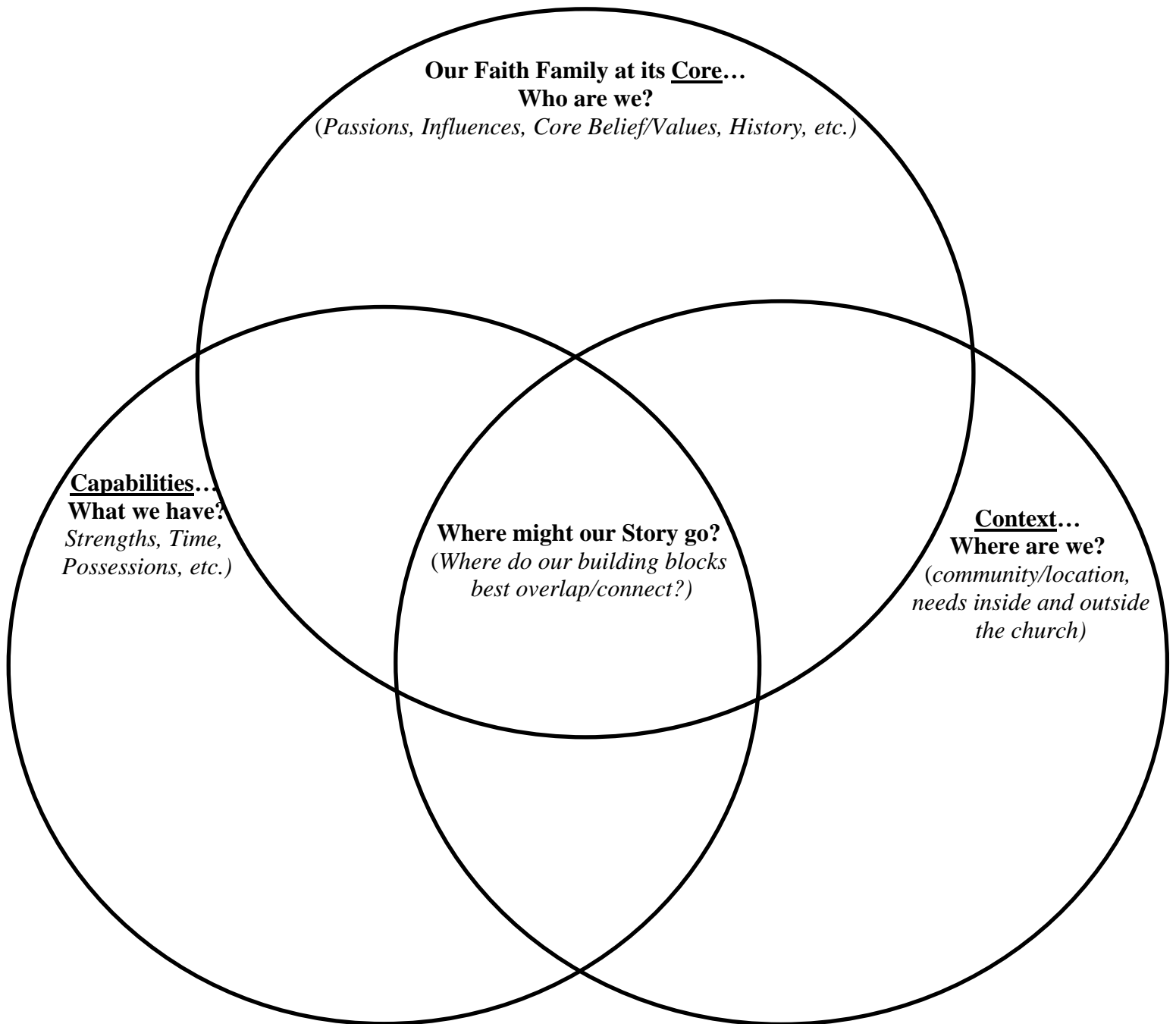
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Where is our Faith Story Going?

1. Looking at our church today what parts of our story might people be thankful about?
2. Which of things in the previous question might God continue to build His Story on going into the future?
3. What are some topics where you know you need to grow in your knowledge/understanding? What areas in your life that are ready to be built on... what areas have you been avoiding?
4. What are some topics where you believe our church could to grow in our knowledge/understanding?
5. How can you help this congregation grow as disciples? (*Include concrete examples where possible*)
6. How can this congregation help you grow as a disciple? (*Include concrete examples where possible*)

7. Identify some of the building blocks God has given this church/you to make connection with our community in the circles below...



What's Your Role in the Next Chapter of the Story?

Your Name: _____

Read your answers to the questions on the green page and answer the following

1. Are you open to God's work in your life in the areas mentioned above?

2. Are you committed to your part in helping the on the previous page take place?

3. What might the effects of the growing, discipling, and building, in the previous questions, look like?
 - a. At church

 - b. At home

 - c. In the community

Notes: