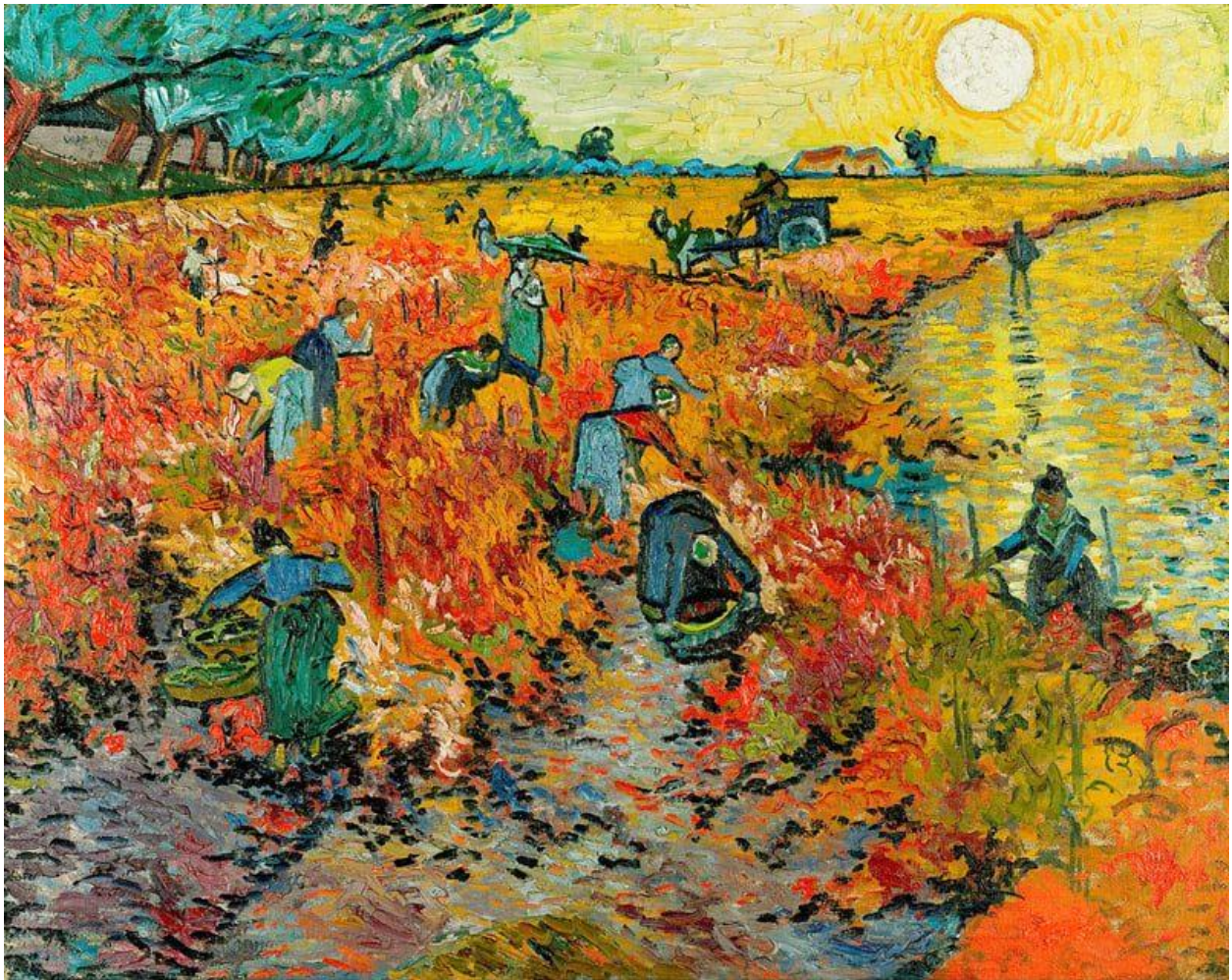


**Worship @ Home Guide – 09.27.2020**

**Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664**



"Red Vineyards near Arles," Vincent van Gogh

**RECONNECT**

**Gathering Music/Announcements**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

*Phil. 2:10–11*

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Glory to God. Amen.**

Lord,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
give us the words of life,  
that we may understand your way  
and follow your truth,  
in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Ps. 25:4–5*

## **Hymn**

### ***From the Nets of Labor***

<https://youtu.be/3oTt6eCogsk>

1 From the nets of our labors,  
through the noise and confusion,  
from the city or seashore,  
Jesus summons us all.

2 When we faint and grow weary  
from the bearing of burdens,  
with a message of comfort,  
Jesus summons us all. [Refrain]

Refrain:

We will rise up and follow,  
Christ before and beside us,  
loving pattern to guide us,  
as we answer the call.

3 In the eyes of the stranger—  
tearful, joyous, or frightened—  
in the face of each neighbor,  
Jesus summons us all.

4 When we hear words of hatred  
spreading fear or false witness,  
words that cry to be challenged,  
Jesus summons us all.  
[Refrain]

5 In each moment of courage,  
steadfast even through trembling;  
in the yearning for justice,  
Jesus summons us all.

6 Like disciples before us,  
from the city or seashore,

risking selfless compassion:  
Jesus summons us all.  
[Refrain 2xs]

## **Prayer of Confession**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Because we do not always live our lives *Phil. 1:27*  
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,  
we confess before God and one another  
our sins and shortcomings.  
In repentance,  
let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of abundant goodness,  
we confess that we want your grace  
for ourselves  
but often wish punishment or exclusion  
on others.  
We judge the efforts and motives of others  
while ignoring the faults of our own.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
when we let jealousy overtake us.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
when we are petty even in the presence  
of your generosity.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
when we feel slighted by you.  
May we ask once again for your mercy?  
Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another?  
We pray in the name of Christ Jesus,  
by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving,  
grace beyond our ability to earn it.  
**God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ;  
therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people!  
Thanks be to God!**

## **READ**

**Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 21: 23-32**

## **The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

## **The Parable of the Two Sons**

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father<sup>[a]</sup> went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

### **REFLECT**

**Message**

**"Follow the Leader"**

### **RESPOND**

**Offering**

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

With grateful hearts,  
let us offer our gifts,  
trusting in God's goodness.

**Music**      **Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yByYDzThrSI>

Singers from the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill, NC, July 26, 2020

Jesus calls us; over the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice soundeth,  
saying, "Christian, follow me;"

As, of old, Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store;  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Almighty God,  
we give you thanks and praise for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Accept the offering of our lives in union with Christ's offering for us,  
and make us humble and obedient servants who will work for your good pleasure;  
through Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

#### Prayers of the People

*Loving God, we are tempted to give into constant quarreling with you,  
with one another, with leaders and friends,  
fellow believers and random strangers.*

*Our world is awash in animosity and fear, anxiety and distrust.  
Even though we know we are to be in the world but not of it,  
we find it hard not to mirror the discord and anger all around us.*

*We humbly come before you this Lord's day and ask you to intervene,*



*to work within us so that we have the ability to turn away from those actions and attitudes that prevent us from fulfilling your purpose through us and turn toward the One who shapes us for your service.*

*As the world reels with upheaval,  
use us to bear witness to your peace.  
As the headlines reverberate with bad news,  
use us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
As our communities wrestle with wicked problems,  
use us to exercise holy imagination that helps the new thing you are doing emerge.  
As so many grow weary and worried,  
use us to bring relief and hope.*

*Merciful God, our prayer lists are long.  
We cannot possibly name all of the people,  
places and circumstances in need of your compassion and transformation.*

*We trust that you know our hearts and hear our pleas  
even when they are left unspoken.*

*Pour out your care on those devastated by fires and floods.  
Wrap in love your children who cry to you in lament  
for all they have lost and cannot imagine living without.*

*Grant your unwavering strength to your prophets speaking the truth in love  
to many as yet unable to hear it.  
Give your peace that passes understanding to those overwhelmed with anxiety and  
afraid of what tomorrow might bring.  
Confident that you know the needs and are already present  
and at work in every corner of creation,  
we humbly turn over to you those things we can no longer carry.  
Astonished that you enlist us to do your will on earth,  
we ask you to show us what we ought to take on in order to be faithful to your call.  
We make our prayer in gratitude for your grace and in the name of your Son, our  
Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...*

## **RETURN**

### **Charge & Benediction**

The Confession of 1967, 9.35–37

"Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

The church gathers to praise God, to hear [God's] word for [humankind], to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to [God] in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its

own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

**The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity."**

**Together or apart, we are the Church in the world.**

### **Sending Hymn    726- Will You Come and Follow Me**

<https://youtu.be/GiXnbOORTAU>

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound

In you and you in me?  
Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

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