



<sup>19</sup> as if someone fled from a lion,  
and was met by a bear;  
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
and was bitten by a snake.  
<sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?  
<sup>21</sup> I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.  
<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

#### **EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

#### **GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:1-13**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Bair

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All people: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom comes. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: It is true, is it not, that all good things come from God, the giver of life? We are called to be wise stewards of God's gifts of time, talent, and money, to share in the fulfillment of God's purposes for all of creation. As stewards of the Kingdom of God, let us give from our abundance with thanksgiving and joy. Please join me now in dedicating our very selves, and our tithes and offering to the work of God's kingdom.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

*All people: For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.*

### HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

### BENEDICTION<sup>2</sup>

Pastor: Go now to tell the stories of our God.

**Congregation: We will listen to the lives of those around us as we do.**

Pastor: Go now to discover the gifts of everyone you meet.

**Congregation: We will remember Jesus, who blessed us with hope and life.**

Pastor: Go now to share all that is within you.

**Congregation: We will tell everyone - from the smallest child to the oldest person - of the Spirit who welcomes us and longs to shape us into one community.**

Pastor: In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

*All people: Amen.*

### POSTLUDE

*Our Lord, Creator and Redeemer* (Jones)

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<sup>2</sup> Rev. Thom Shuman is a Presbyterian minister in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently serving in interim or transitional ministry, as he writes a personal lectionary blog called "Lectionary Liturgies." This Benediction is from November 9, 2014.  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-wcommunion-for-november-9-2014.html> 27 October 2020

# I Love to Tell the Story

572

*I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever — Psalm 89:1 NIV*

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove, Of  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Tis pleas - ant to re - peat What  
3. I love to tell the sto - ry; For those who know it best Seem

Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love: I love to  
seems each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet: I love to  
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest: And when, in

tell the sto - ry Be - cause I know 'tis true; It sat - is - fies my  
tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard The mes - sage of sal -  
scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old

long - ings As noth - ing else can do.  
va - tion From God's own ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Twill  
sto - ry That I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry To tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and His love.

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911  
MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

HANKEY  
7.6.7.6.D. with Refrain