

“The Kingdom of God and the Common Good”
Philadelphia Presbytery, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, 9:15 am

Matthew 5:2-16

² Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ “Happy are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *[helpless]*

⁴ “Happy are **those who mourn**, for they will be comforted. *[discouraged]*

⁵ “Happy are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth. *[powerless]*

⁶ “Happy are **those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled. *[victims of injustice]*

⁷ “Happy are the **merciful**, for they will receive mercy. *[compassionate]*

“Happy are the *pure in heart*, for they will see God. *[integrity]*

⁹ “Happy are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God. *[those who create the conditions for human flourishing]*

¹⁰ “Happy are those who are **persecuted for righteousness’ sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *[courage of conviction]*

¹¹ “Happy are you when people **revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you** falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *[thick skin]*

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Psalm 1

¹ **Happy are those** who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 40.4

Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

Proverbs 3:13-14

¹³ **Happy are those** who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,

¹⁴ for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.