

4th Sunday in Lent/March 10, 2013

Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Rev. Joel M. Krueger

*The Parable of the Prodigal Son - A New Telling of the Story in Drama and Song*

**Narrator: Jesus was a teacher and his favorite way of teaching was to tell stories, parables, that got people thinking. Today we want to portray for you one of Jesus' most famous parables. Try to forget you've ever heard this story before and try to hear it with new ears. See it with new eyes, as if you've never pictured it before. And open your heart to it and let it speak to you. The Parable of the Prodigal Son.**

**Narrator: One day, when Jesus was out teaching the crowds of people, the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. But the Pharisees and the scribes, the religious types, were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So, seeing the hardness of their hearts, Jesus told them this parable:**

*(Two sons and father enter from side and sit at a table. A servant comes in and sets a bowl and spoon before each.)*

**Narrator: There was a man who had two sons. (Song: "Father and Son" by Cat Stevens)**

*(Father and younger son get up and walk to front stage where father begins to talk to son, giving advice. By end of song, younger son shaking head, is not willing to change his mind.)*

**Narrator: The younger son said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So the father divided his property between them. (Servant brings chest to Father, who opens it and counts out the younger son's inheritance. The son takes it.)**

**Narrator: A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and departed from his home.**

*(Servant brings out travel bag and coat. Youngest son puts on coat and takes bag. He goes to center stage followed by father and elder son. Father tries to persuade him not to go, elder son stands back with arms folded. Younger son breaks from father who tries to hug him. As he departs, elder son shakes head in disapproval and father looks sorrowful as they watch him leave. He walks down center aisle to back of sanctuary and out. Father and elder son exit stage and sit down at side of stage. Table and chairs are put to side.)*

**Narrator: He traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.**

**(Song: "Another Saturday Night" by Sam Cooke as arranged by Cat Stevens)**

*(Upper stage is set with chairs and as music begins, revelers enter with beer and wine bottles. The younger son enters from center aisle and joins the party. Dancing and spending his money on drink and partying. After song when he has spent everything he has, all depart and he is left alone, disheveled, shoe-less and sitting on the edge of the stage.)*

**Narrator: When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.**

*(Younger son comes down to lower stage. There he meets a man who points to his pigs and gives him a feed-bag with feed for the pigs. Pig noises in background.)*

**Narrator: Now this poor young man would have been happy to eat the pea pods that the pigs were eating, he was so hungry; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'**

*(Younger son gets up, brushes the dust from his clothes, waves goodbye to the pigs - pig noises in background - and pensively, humbly, begins his walk home, back on the side aisle.)*

**Narrator: So the poor young man set off down that long rocky road, returning to his father's home.** *(Younger son walks to back of sanctuary.)*

**Narrator: But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him, he hugged him and kissed him!**

*(As younger son comes down center aisle, father runs from side stage to center stage and excitedly, seeing the son coming, runs to greet him, hugging him and bringing him up to front stage. He motions to servants off stage. One brings a pan with water and they wash him. Another dries him with a towel.)*

**Narrator: Then the son began to say to his father, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate!**

*(While one servant gets a robe and slippers and puts them on him, another brings a ring in a box, shows it to the father who gives approval, and the servant then places it on his finger. The younger son tries to stop them so that he may speak but the father*

*interrupts and hugs him. Servants bring out table and place food on it - bowl of fruit, loaves of bread, a platter of meat. They blow horns and everyone dances.)*

**(Song: "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang)**

**Narrator: Now the elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.** *(Elder son enters from side stage, wiping the sweat from his brow.)*

**Narrator: He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. The slave replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound."**

*(The elder son gets angry, and pushes the servant away and turns away with arms folded. When the father sees him, he comes out to him and the elder son turns and faces him.)*

**Narrator: Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."**

*(Father takes elder son in his embrace, and putting his hands on the son's shoulders looks into his eyes. The elder son turns away but the father takes his hand in his and then reaches out toward the Younger Son.)*

**Narrator: So ends our telling of Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son.**

**But our proclamation of the gospel is just beginning! In this season of Lent, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the new day, the breaking in of God's realm among us, I invite you to begin living that message by turning and saying to those around you, these words of reconciliation and love "Welcome home! You are loved!"**

**Narrator: As we celebrate the abundant love and compassion of God that calls us to new beginnings, let us sing together, "Morning Has Broken" printed in your bulletin.**

**(Song: "Morning Has Broken" by Eleanor Farjeon as arranged by Cat Stevens)**

## **CAST**

Narrator: Pastor Joel

Father: Tyler Johnstone

Younger Son: Miles Martin

Elder Son: Stephen Colby

Servant 1: Matthias Martin

Servant 2: Nancy Joslen

Bar Maid: Nancy Joslen

Reveler 1: Tyler Johnstone

Reveler 2: Matthias Martin

Frankenstein: Stephen Colby

Pig Farmer: Matthias Martin

## **BAND**

Gary Grant (drums)

Joel Krueger (vocals)

Sam Ladd (guitar/vocals)

Brice Sinclair (keyboard)