

Dear United Church Members and Friends,

This Sunday's reading is one of the parables Jesus taught about the kingdom of heaven. In this parable there is the king who invites people to his son's wedding celebration. Hardly anyone, if anyone, RSVP's or shows up. After many of the invitees ignored it, while others seriously mistreated his servants, and after the king responded dramatically--he then invited anyone and everyone from "the streets". It was standing room only in the wedding hall!

There's a surprise ending that makes this Sunday's reading one of the more complicated parables Jesus taught. It's not complicated because we don't fully understand life in first-century Judah. And it's not complicated because of the imagery Jesus used like in his teachings on "last days". It's complicated because it's fairly long and, as mentioned, has a perplexing conclusion. It's complicated because of at least one of the decisions and actions by the king. It's complicated because this parable raises questions like: why didn't the king invite everyone in the streets to his son's wedding in the first place? Why did he invite people who didn't want to come and then kick out someone who did? If this king of the kingdom of heaven is supposed to be God, why are so many people invited and, as the last verse puts it, "but few are chosen"?

I encourage you to read the passage before Sunday so we can exercise our "private judgment in the interpretation of the Scriptures" (UCLA Covenant) and bring our questions and hopes. What problems, if any do you have with this text? What messages of assurance and hope do you see/hear in it?

Join us for worship this Sunday, July 20th at 9:30am in the United Church Sanctuary or online at unitedchurchla.org.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:1-14 Sermon: "Faith's Attire"

REMINDERS

VBS for all ages will be next Thursday, July 24th at 5:30pm with the music group, Música Antigua de Albuquerque!

Registration for our All-Church Camp at Ghost Ranch continues tomorrow after worship and all next week. All-Church Camp dates: Aug. 29-31.

Grace and peace,
David