



10/3/20

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

Are you tired of this pandemic? Want to create a better life? Space? Relationships? Now is the time to do it. And believe it or not, our scriptures for October 4th are calling us forward to do just that.

Isaiah and Matthew's messages (see readings in the Online Service attachment) tell a similar story. Isaiah describes an industrious and clever farmer who plants a perfect vineyard, but the vineyard yielded 'wild grapes', meaning sour grapes. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of another farmer. At harvest time the vineyard is rich with grapes. The owner sends his slaves to collect the crops. But the workers kill the slaves and even the son of the owner in order to steal the harvest.

Isaiah explains the allegory: "For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!" God tried to teach Israel the way of justice. They were given the prophets, Amos, Micah, Moses and John the Baptist. Finally, like the owner who sends his only son, God sends Jesus. All the directions, corrections, warnings, and admonitions did not change the people.

Think about our lives today. Have we listened to God? Are we ready to bring in the harvest to the Lord? And what would that mean? Perhaps God is calling us, through our struggles this past year, to bring in the fruits of justice. We, who rejoice in the resurrected Jesus, where are WE in this season of the harvest? How can God count on us? Want things to get better?? Let's make it happen by loving one another and our neighbors.

I look forward to our discussion on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, at 5:00 pm to pray and talk together. May God inspire you. Blessings,

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano, Ph.D

Priest in Residence, Emmanuel, West Roxbury

**Live Zoom Service this week
at 5:00 pm Saturday,
October 3, 2020.**

Zoom Service Link:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99089983231?pwd=OERJenVQdDREdmk3YmJEcHlvZys5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 990 8998 3231
Passcode: 525149

Virtual Coffee Hour follows
our live Zoom Service. (It is
not recorded.)

**After 7:00 pm on Saturday,
view the TAPED service
anytime via our YouTube site:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment on our
service/sermon dialog? Or a
question on the readings for
next week? Email us at:
info@emmanuelwr.org