

**Philippians 2:1-5**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

**2 Chronicles 1:7-13**

That night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I should give you." Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to my father David, and have made me succeed him as king. O Lord God, let your promise to my father David now be fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of yours?" God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like." So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel

## **The Wishing Well** **by Arnold Lobel**

A mouse once found a wishing well.  
“Now all of my wishes can come true!” she cried.  
She threw a penny into the well and made a wish.  
“OUCH!” said the wishing well.

The next day the mouse came back to the well.  
She threw a penny into the well and made a wish. “OUCH!” said the well.  
The next day the mouse came back again.  
She threw a penny into the well. “I wish this well would not say ouch,” she said.  
“OUCH!” said the well. “That hurts!”

“What shall I do?” cried the mouse.  
“My wishes will never ever come true this way!”  
The mouse ran home. She took the pillow from her bed.  
“This may help,” said the mouse, and she ran back to the well.

The mouse threw the pillow into the well.  
Then she threw a penny into the well and made a wish.  
“Ah. That feels much better!” said the well.  
“Good!” said the mouse. “Now I can start wishing.”

After that day the mouse made many wishes by the well.  
And every one of them came true.

## Sermon

What is it you have wished for? If you had the magic lamp, the enchanted fortune teller, the wishing well in your back yard - what wish would you make today? Seems like a silly question for rational adults. We know there is no magic in a four leaf clover or in a horseshoe or rabbits foot. There are no talismans, or whil-o-whisps or genies who grant wishes. But haven't we all wished for something. How many of us have wished for greater wealth by playing the lotto? How many of us have wished for a better job or for a relationship to be mended? How many of us have wished people would take us more seriously or pay more attention to our thoughts and dreams? We wish for our own health and the health of our loved ones, for safety and peace, for renewal and rest. As Christians, often our wishes take on the look of prayers. We petition God for our wants and desires, hoping that God will see fit to bless us with our wish. We even wonder, if our wish is not readily given, if we have somehow displease or angered God by our sins. But wishes are for children to imagine, the only thing real is if we make it happen for ourselves.

Solomon was the son of David and the heir of the throne of Israel. Here is a man who inherited the kingdom and power of his father. A man who, through no act of his own, gains wealth and honor just by the blessing of being the son of the king. And when it came time for Solomon to assume the throne, the rich get richer. Solomon gains an audience with the divine Creator. "Ask what I should give you." God offers Solomon a blank check, an open ended request for anything." Now imagine, for just a moment the scene. Solomon is just about to fall asleep, that twilight moment where the day is fading and your eyes are closed and your mind is falling still. Suddenly he senses something is in the tent with him, like a child who comes looking for his parent in the middle of the night, with his face right next to mine, "Ahhh!". I'm surprised that Solomon's answer to God isn't something about more sleep. "Just 10 more minutes." or "Peace and Quiet."

But Solomon seems to be completely lucid and awake. He recognizes that it is God who is before him and takes the time to think through what God has offered. In the end, Solomon asks for the wisdom to rule over the people, and God is so impressed with this request that he grants wisdom as well as honor and wealth and possessions.

Did you recognize what Solomon asked for? Not just wisdom for the sake of being wise, but wisdom so that he can rule the people. Often kings are known for the strength of their armies or the victories in battle. Some are known for their power to enact justice and the rule of law. And still others are known for their prestige and wealth and the other powerful people that they hang out with. And Solomon could have been any one of those kings. But his wish, his prayer to God was to be a wise king.

I wonder how many of our wishes have been selfish? I wonder how many of our wishes have ignored the needs of others or the hopes and desires of the one who grants the gift? I am reminded of the words of the pray Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Give us this day our daily bread - enough food and wealth and possessions for today, thy

kingdom come, thy will be done - not my wishes, but the wishes and dreams of the true king.

What might it look like if our wishes were inline with the will of the kingdom? What might that look like? What might that do?

The kingdom welcomes the stranger and the outcast to come to the banquet. The kingdom feeds the hungry and touches the untouchable. The kingdom heals the sick and comforts the grieving. The kingdom calls men and women, young and old, a diversity of skin colors and a diversity of thought to come under one great umbrella that is seeking and sharing the love of God. What would it look like if our wishes took into consideration the wishes of the kingdom?

Maybe, just maybe, wishes would no longer be for children, but they would be the prayers of the children of God. Prayers for peace and health, prayers for love and not hate, prayer for every child of creation to know God's love and to eat daily bread. Prayer for comfort for those in pain. Prayers for rest and renewal for those who are drained. Prayers that are offered in the darkness of night, in the dawn of the morning and at noon days light. Prayers that are offered not just with words and meditation, but with hands and feet and smiles and laughter and tears. Prayers that are enacted by kindness shared with a stranger or neighbor. Prayers lived out by our want for all people to be raised up to a better life.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of other. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

May that be the mind of this church, and the mind of Christians everywhere, for that is the will of the kingdom that we are called to be about. Thanks be to God. Amen