

WEBSTER GROVES
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
An Open & Affirming Congregation
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

September 20, 2026

Welcome/Brief Announcements	Jeff Moore
Prelude	Lisa Cripe
Opening Prayer	Sally Smith
*Opening Hymn <i>"The Sun is on the Sea and Shore"</i>	CH 3
Children's Moment	Robin Woodrome
Scripture Reading Matthew 20: 1-16	Sally Smith
Table Talk "A Parable "Capitalists" Love to Hate"	Jeff Moore
Invitation to Discipleship	Jeff Moore
*Hymn of Invitation <i>"For the Fruit of All Creation"</i>	CH 714
Invitation to the Lord's Table	Jeff Moore
Communion Hymn <i>"As Grain on Scattered Hillside"</i>	CH 491

The Lord's Supper/Elder's Prayer Keller Swartz
 Communion Meditation *"As Grain on Scattered Hillside"*
 Prayer of Thanksgiving Jeff Moore

Offering Our Gifts & Commitments Jeff Moore
 Prayer over the Offering
 *Doxology

Prayers of the Community Jeff Moore
*This morning, we are praying with and for the people and
 churches of Haiti, and for those countries under the siege
 of threats, war, and natural disasters*

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us
*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom
 come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
 daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin
 against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

*Closing Hymn *"River of Mercy"* CP 105

*Benediction Jeff Moore

Postlude *"River of Mercy"* Lisa Cripe

* = **Please stand if you are comfortably able.**
**CH—Chalice Hymnal CP=Chalice Praise Hymnal AAH=African-Amer.
 Hymnal**

Greeter(s): Craig & Donna Wood
 Musicians: Lisa Cripe, Wind of the Spirit, WGCC Choir (Robin Woodrome,
 director), WGCC Celebration Ringers
 Prayer Composer: Devoree Crist
 Media/Streaming: John Pahl, Xander Gerdes

OPENING PRAYER Sept 20, 2026 Sunday Worship

Reflecting on **Matthew 20:1-16**

Attentive God, Jesus' story tells us of a landowner who gave each worker a denarius (a day's wage) regardless how much they worked. Unfortunately the usual days wage was just subsistence so anything less would have been harmful. In your kingdom the needs of all are met without regard to who we are, what we can give, or how hard we work. You know and hear those who are in want, poor, hungry, thirsty, or naked. The world we live in is a world of greed and inequity. But we are your people and you count on us to care for each other. Bless us as we gather to worship and help us to be compassionate, remembering that we belong to you and to each other in Christ Jesus, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

The Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”