

A Lawyer Came Near

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2023

Matthew 22:34-46; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28

Tradition

1. A law - yer came near, ask - ing Je - sus a
2. Yet Je - sus was wise and he knew what w
3. Lord Je - sus, you teach us to love God an

he did it to test him, to find Je -
he knew if he said that one law mat -
for love adds the fla - vor to all that

O Teach - er, we've lis - tened and heard what yo
then he'd be ac - cused of ig - nor - ing, be
At home or a - way, in our lei - sure or

Now which is the great - est of all of C
the six hun - dred twelve that he chose to
there's no - thing that's great - er than love— it

1. With six hun - dred thir - teen com - mand - ments to
2. So Je - sus chose love: You should love the Lo
3. And Lord, in this world that is filled with gre

now tell us your views! Tell us: what do y
with all of your heart and your soul and yo
may we know that love is not just some

Peru Community Church

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Rev. Phil Richards

Worship Asst. – Abbie Breen

CENTERING MUSIC/PRELUDE

(If you have prayer concerns, please place them in the BLESSED basket in the rear of the Sanctuary, to be read during Joys and Concerns. If you are new or have changed your information recently, please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate.)

PASTOR'S GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Today we stand in the shadow of great movements in the history of the Christian church.

People: We are the heirs to a tradition of thoughtful reflection, critical thinking and dissent.

Leader: Today we give thanks for leaders who were courageous enough to consider new ideas about God.

People: Today we seek to know God, to serve faithfully, and to interpret our faith in fresh ways.

All: Let us tell the story of Jesus in ways both ancient and modern.

***HYMN**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (v. 1&4) #384

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for our growth in faith. We know that "this life is not godliness, but growth in godliness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way; the process is not yet finished, but it has begun; this is not the goal, but it is road; at present all does not gleam and glitter, but everything is being purified." For this we give you thanks in Jesus' name. AMEN.

-Martin Luther, (Volume 12)

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

RESPONSE
May God grant us grace and wisdom for interpretation.
Amen Alleluia!

MORNING MESSAGE Pastor Phil

***HYMN** “A Lawyer Came Near” (see back page)

RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY

JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER
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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

***HYMN** “We’ve a Story to Tell” (v. 1&2) #569

BLESSING

PRAYER LIST
Shirley Arnold; Abbie Breen; Rob Butts; Carol; Sarah Connelly; Eric Duquette; Denise; Nancy Fegan; Ben Filchak; Danny Hartman; Jerry; Susanne & Eucky Jones; Linda; Luke; Bonnie Mahnk; Karen Hadad-Meyers; Howard Newton; Noreen; Patricia; Roy Perry; Evelyn Rinella; Sherrie & Julia; Anne Stevensen; Jane Way

Pastors:
Rev. Phil Richards: (518) 791-1123 pastorphils@gmail.com
Rev. Leigh McCaffrey: (518) 247-8886 fivechurchesumc@gmail.com

Musicians:
Steve Woodruff: Virtual Organist Patsy Yang: Choir Director

Announcements for the Week of 10/25 – 10/31

- 10/25: Worship Service 9 am in the Sanctuary & on Zoom
Coffee Hour after Worship
Pipe Screams 3:30 pm – 5 pm
🎵 Pipe Organ “Screams” 🎃 Halloween Crafts 🍷 Cider & Donuts
👗 Costume Parade 🎭 Trick-or-Treating
- 10/26: AA 7:30 pm
- 10/27: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- 10/28: Knit Wits 1:30 pm
Common Ground Gathering 5:30 pm (Video) 6:30 pm (Discussion) in Chapel
- 10/29: RSVP Osteo Exercise Group 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- 10/30 – 11/5: Amanda Out of Office

Mountain of Food for November
Our Mission focus for the month of November is the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf (housed in the Plattsburgh UMC).
Please see the list of food items (all non-perishable) in the bulletin.
Starting Sunday November 1st, please bring your donations to church and we will start building a **MOUNTAIN OF FOOD** in the Sanctuary!
Donations will continue to be collected through November 29th.