

Sermon Title: **“Come and See What God Has Done”**

Bible: **Psalm 66:1-12 & Luke 17:11-19**

When: on Sunday, October 9, 2022

Where: about 30 people (plus YouTube streaming viewers) at Gilroy UMC

### **Opening Prayer**

O Lord, thank you so much for being with us in our daily life, in our suffering, and in our joys. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

### **1. Gratitude!**

How many times do you say “Thank you” in a day? When I go to a restaurant, and when someone holds the door for me to enter, I say “Thank you.” When the server guides me to a table, and gives me a menu, I say “Thank you.” When my drink comes, I say “Thank you.” And when my appetizer comes out first, I say “Thank you.” Then, when my main menu comes, I say “Thank you.” When the server checks on us during the meals, I say “Wonderful” and “Thank you!” When I learned English, I learned that there are three magic words: “Please,” “Sorry,” and “Thank you.” Among these three, I say “Thank you” a lot. How about you? How many times do you say “Thank you” in a day?

### **2. Gratitude from Psalm 66 and Luke 17**

Saying “Thank you” or expressing gratitude is a great part of our lives. It is in our scripture readings today from the lectionary. In Psalm 66, there is joy and gratitude! This Psalm 66 is kind of a summary of what God has done for the Israelites’ journey from Egypt to the promised land. They should feel joy and gratitude, because God delivered the Israelites from

slavery. They had been living with injustice and suffering. And now, there were no more tears, no more suffering, and no more injustice. They were celebrating with praises and a joyful noise!

In the Gospel of Luke 17, there were ten lepers. They came to Jesus and cried out for help. Jesus told them to go to the priests and show themselves. At that time, lepers were isolated because it was believed that leprosy was contagious. The priests had the authority to decide if the lepers were clean or not. According to what Jesus said, ten lepers went to the priests. On their way to the priests, all ten lepers were healed and made clean! What a great miracle! Then, one of the ten, a Samaritan or a foreigner, came back to Jesus, and thanked Jesus. It was a great moment of joy and gratitude!!

### **3. Mixed Feelings about Gratitude in Our Lives**

Psalm 66 and Luke 17 are great stories. But sometimes, our lives are different. In Psalm 66, it is clear that there were enemies, suffering, and injustice. But our lives in the States and in the 21st century are not that simple. Sometimes, I need to face my mixed feelings. Who are our enemies? Who are our neighbors and friends? If I dare to imagine, if our church grows and grows, and if we need to use all of our church buildings every day, can that be good news? Can we say “Thank you”? That might mean that we cannot have our renters anymore, and our renters would need to find another place. Can that be good news for them? Can they say “Thank you”? Where is the win-win scenario? How can both sides say “Thank you”?

In Luke 17, all of the ten lepers were healed. All were healed. But we assume that there were more lepers at that time and in that area. At least, we know that not all patients can be healed. If all patients are healed, and if we are one of them, it might be easier and more

comfortable to say “Thank you.” But if we are the only one who is healed, can we still say “Thank you”?

Many people and many churches have difficulty during this pandemic. I have met many pastors here and there. Many churches are still struggling with many things, including this pandemic. Our church got through this pandemic with all of you together. We can say that we are not only survivors, but also growers. Can we say “Thank you”? Is it okay to say “Thank you”?

#### **4. Come and See & Turn Back to God**

While I am reflecting on today’s scripture readings, what I found is to come and see what God has done. Can we come to God? The ten lepers came to Jesus and cried out for him to have mercy. And the one leper turned back again to God. Can we turn back to God? What I focus on is the latter part of “Thank YOU.” Who is “You” to us? Thanks to God’s protection, we survived. Thanks to God’s guidance, we grow day by day. Thanks to God’s holy presence, even though there are many problems, diseases, tears, sufferings, and injustice, we live. We live by faith and hope! That’s because God promised us to be with us, always in our daily lives. This is our faith. So, we can say “Thank you, Lord.” “Thank you so much, O Lord, for your holy presence in our lives.”

#### **Closing Prayer**

O Lord, in our complicated lives, in our mixed feelings, we come to you. You promised us to be with us always. Thank you so much for your protection, guidance, and wisdom. Above all, thank you so much for your holy presence. In Jesus’ name. Amen.