

Today's sermon was inspired by the gospel reading and Dr. Seuss' book *Oh the Places You'll Go*. Some of the words in the following are from Dr. Seuss.

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Congratulations!

Today is our day! We are disciples.
Trying to serve in a Christ-like way.

We have God as our guide.
We have the Bible in hand.
We are asked to go
To pray in the land.

We aren't on our own. The Spirit will guide us
On our discipleship journey without a fuss.

We'll pray during the day and at night. We'll pray with care.
Asking God for guidance to lead us where there is a place without a bear.
With God as our guide and the bible in hand
God will lead us to do ministry in the sand.

Sometimes be surprised where we go
To the worst and the best
God will go with us.
As we journey with the rest.

God can send us anywhere.
Anywhere with air.

We go where God calls
Sometimes beyond our reason
And outside our comfort
In our least favorite season.

When God calls us.
Don't worry. Don't fuss.
Just listen to the call.
God will be with us.

Oh! The Places we'll go as disciples!

We'll be out in the streets.
We'll be doing great things
We join others in ministry
Who may do things with strings.

We'll keep moving forward, because we'll have a guide
We'll work together as the Spirit takes us on a slide
Wherever we do ministry things will go smooth
Wherever we go we'll fit into the groove

Except when we don't.
Because, sometimes we won't.

A disciple Has hard work.
We will hit some bumps
And be down in the dumps
And have coffee that doesn't perk.

We can get flustered
In the journey of discipleship
That we'll want to eat custard
But don't stop the trip.

Continue on the trip
Even when we are flustered
Chances are that
We'll find a sandwich with mustard.

But really, when we are flustered
Being a disciple can be difficult.
And when we are flustered
Don't come to a halt.

We may come to a place where we don't know where to go.
Some ministries seem intriguing, and others seem slow.
A place where deciding could hurt our head,
Which one do we choose or do we stay in bed?
Or do you jump right in and go down on the sled?

And when we choose where we fit, which way will we go?
Right or left? Fast or slow?
Or maybe stand out along the edge to decide
If this is the right ministry to jump in for the ride
Or to stand in the corner and hide.

We can get so scared
That we don't know which pace
To choose when we are deciding where is our place.

We can think and wonder about a space
And run the race to a confusing place.
The Doubting Place...

For disciples doubting...
Doubting which way to go,
Or doubting that someone will come, or how to go
Or the call to come, or to do ministry in the snow
Or doubting that God has said yes or no
Or doubting that in ministry we will grow.
Everyone is just doubting.

Doubting Jesus unless we see
Like Thomas who was out for tea
Or someone short who climbs a tree
Or doubting our sisters and brothers
To share the Good News with others.
Or doubting in our call
That we are to serve all.
Everyone is just doubting.

No! That's not for us!

Somehow we'll leave
The doubting with a heave
We'll find our God given gifts and talents
And use them as we believe.

Using our gifts for ministry
We glorify God's name
Ready to spark a new flame
And not expect to be in the hall of fame.

Oh, the places we'll go as disciples! There is food to be given.
There are resources to be shared. All part of discipleship livin.
And the humble service that we can share could inspire people
To come and search for a church steeple.
Yes, we will grow our community as large as can be
Large enough that some may have to watch from a tree.

Except when we don't.
Because sometimes we won't.

Sometimes we will try
To share the good news
And hope that others
Will not snooze.

Trying ministry
Whether we like it or not
Is not always easy
And may not reach a lot.

When we try to do ministry there is a chance
That things will happen that we don't anticipate in a glance.
There may be times that our efforts seem to fail
But don't lose hope because God will carry our drooping tail.

We will continue to try
With the Spirit as our guide.
We will try go by
Where the devil will hide.
On we will try
In the midst of our pride
To do ministry
For our Lord and Savior
Even though we may not understand
Our counter-cultural behavior.

We will continue to follow
Our Savior's example
And work through the hard times
And come to solutions that are ample.

Along the journey we will be tempted
As we already know.
We meet many different people
With some out-there ideas and quirks.
So when we go, be sure to pray
Pray for guidance and care
And remember to share
That God shows his love and care.
Don't ever forget that God is always available for conversation
Even in the midst of feeling lost in Union Station.

And will we succeed?
Yes, we will indeed!
(with God's help guaranteed)
Disciples, we will do ministry.

So...
No matter our name or our gift
We can do ministry and God's name we lift.
We are disciples.
Today is our day.
To act in a Christ-like way.
So...get on your way.

The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding be in your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus the Lord. Amen.