HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, Continued.

A weekly guide for living the message

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | PASTOR VERN BRYANT



This Week in Scripture

LECTIONARY READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (NIV)

Read the complete passage as part of this week's reflection.

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

The Message in Brief

Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Pastor Vern reminds us that these are not Sunday-only identities; they are a calling to live like Christ wherever we go. Salt brings flavor, and our lives should help others develop a taste for Jesus. Complaining, bitterness, and inconsistency weaken that witness. Faithfulness, compassion, and truth spoken in love make Christ visible. Like a lamp on a stand or a town on a hill, our faith is meant to be seen through good deeds that glorify God, not ourselves. Our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities should be different because we are there. The invitation is to stay salty, let our light shine, and give the world a glimpse of Christ.

Give the world a taste and glimpse of who Christ is.

Questions to Carry

1. Do my words and actions make others curious about Christ, or obscure His love?
2. Where might complaining, bitterness, or inconsistency be weakening my witness?
3. How can I speak truth with love and let my light shine in one everyday setting?

Live It This Week

Choose one place where you spend your week and one person you can encourage or serve. Replace a complaint with gratitude, offer a practical act of care, or speak an honest word with compassion. Let your response point to Christ rather than draw attention to yourself.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, we thank You for this day and for calling us to be salt and light in the world. Lord, reveal where complaining, bitterness, or inconsistency has weakened our witness. Help us live like Christ, speak truth with love, and serve with compassion. Give us courage to let our light shine in our homes, workplaces, and communities. May our words and actions help others see Your goodness and bring glory to You. These things we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.