

Racine UMC & Sumner Center UMC

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



“Born to Trouble”
Worship Series
Week 1

How can we acknowledge the pain of the world in which we live? In our own neighborhoods? In our chosen mission fields? Around the world? What responses can we give to the suffering of the world around us? How can we be a caring presence beyond our own community of faith? How can we stand in solidarity with those who suffer because of their race or religion or ethnicity? What witness can we give to the world that God is a loving presence and not an uninvolved and ineffable entity?

Today we begin a new worship series entitled “Born to Trouble”. We will dive into the book of Job for the next couple of weeks and visit how Job deals with some profoundly difficult questions in the life of faith, and how he does so without easy answers or simplistic cliches. In fact, Job takes on those cliches with some painful truths about life in the real world. Let’s be honest: Job isn’t really for those for whom everything is great, and all their choices come up smelling like roses. It is a book for those who have questions, those who are struggling or suffering, or feeling like there is no one listening, no one out there at all.

The human condition seems rife with difficulty from birth to death. We are, as “Comforter” Eliphaz declares in a rare moment of clarity, born to trouble as the sparks fly upward (Job 5:7). What word can we bring to those who know the depth of this experience?

The word we bring is LOVE

So, today we gather to worship as a people who are in this world and called to love the world as did the one who sent the Christ so that whosoever believes in him might have eternal life.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ruth C. Duck, in *Flames of Spirit: Resources for Worship*, Ruth Duck, ed, Pilgrim Press, 1985, 59. (Quotes a phrase from the hymn “Just as I Am” by Charlotte Elliott)

Leader: We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

People: We gather, in spite of many a conflict, many a doubt, within our souls.

Leader: We gather, longing for the breath of God’s Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

All: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit and give us the courage to live as your disciples day by day. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

From South Africa, Worship and Song: Worship Resources, Abingdon Press, 2011, 25.

**For rebirth and resilience, Blessed be God;
For the spiritually humble, Glory to God, hallelujah;
For all who hunger and thirst for justice, Praise him and magnify him forever;
For all who are banned from speaking the truth, Blessed be God;
For all who triumph over their bitter circumstance, Glory to God, hallelujah;
For all who risk reputation, livelihood, and life itself for Christ's sake and the gospel;
All praise and all glory; this is God's kingdom; Praise him and love him forever.**

Praise Hymn #191 Jesus Loves me This I Know

Jesus Love Me Words St. 1 Anna B Warner 1860 STS 2-3 David Rutherford McGuire Music: William B Bradbury, 1862 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. *Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. [Refrain]

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Job 1:1 (NRSV)

Job and His Family

1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Job 2:1-10 (NRSV)

Attack on Job's Health

2 One day the heavenly beings[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan[b] also came among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 The Lord said to

Satan,[c] “Where have you come from?” Satan[d] answered the Lord, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” 3 The Lord said to Satan,[e] “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” 4 Then Satan[f] answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.[g] 5 But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” 6 The Lord said to Satan,[h] “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

7 So Satan[i] went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 Job[j] took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse[k] God, and die.” 10 But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Moments

Faith Hymn #368 My Hope is Built

My Hope Is Built Words *Edward Mote 1834* **Music:** *William B Bradbury, 1863* © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. *Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul give way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!

Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Meditation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD, YOU ARE OUR EVERYTHING

(Alexis Carter)

Gracious God. God of Love. God of Comfort.

You are indeed our Everything – you're a shelter in times of storm,

You are the Alpha and Omega,

You are the God of the angel armies.

Thank you for your pure goodness toward us.

Thank you that you did not just arrive to meet us on this Sunday, but you have been with us all week long.

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole being, nor have we always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for how we have judged our neighbors, cursed our enemies, been critical in ways that are unloving, been silent in the face of injustice, and put more confidence in ourselves than in you. We ask for your forgiveness when we have said cruel and unacceptable things in certain settings that we hoped would never be heard by those outside of those settings. Forgive us for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Teach us to be the people Isaiah prophesied about when he said, " they shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations" (Isaiah 61:4, NRSV).

In your mercy O Lord, Hear our prayers.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Most merciful Father, draw near to those who are brokenhearted
and doubtful of your power and presence and in need of healing this morning.

As we embrace this season of autumn, may we not only be mesmerized by the changes in the colors of the leaves, but we plead that you would heal the eyesight of the colorblind.

Set the captives free; please give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

As time is filled with swift transitions and disheartening death,

Teach our hearts to find rest and comfort in you.

Give us strength to submit to your pruning – trusting that you cut away at our lives that we might bear more fruit unto your glory.

May your Spirit blow afresh upon us in this season – moving us not simply to the right or to the left but forward in hope, peace, and justice.

Bless your church – that we may be the people you've created us to be and do the work that you have called us to do.

In the name of the one who gave his life, so that we might know God, abundance, and life eternal we come to you in prayer...

***Departing Hymn #129 Give to the Winds They Fears**

Give to the Winds They Fears Words Paul Gerhardt, 1653 trans by John Wesley, 1739 Music, William H. Walter, 1894 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved.

Give to the winds thy fears;
hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears thy way;
wait thou God's time; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command;
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,
how wise, how strong this hand.

Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath
thy love and guardian care.

BENEDICTION

*Written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website,
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>.*

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.
As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.
As you have been received – give.
As you have heard – proclaim.
And the blessing which you have received
from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.