

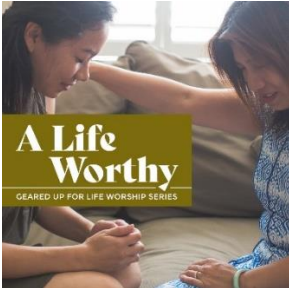
Racine UMC & Sumner Center UMC

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



“Geared Up for Life”

Worship Series

Week 4

To declare that there is a life worthy of the gospel is to claim that there is a life that isn't. There are choices to be made in how we live out our faith. And some of those choices reveal whether we are indeed “rooted and grounded in love” or not.

Our scripture for this week shows us that a primary sign of the gospel-worthy life is unity. This isn't so much an individual check list of dos and don'ts, but a plumbline by which we measure the health of the whole body. We retain our individuality, of course, as a variety of gifts are needed. But it is the unity of the body that reveals the gospel at work in and among us. “See how those Christians love one another.”

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6)

*Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Ephesians+4%3A1-16>.*

Lead a life worthy of the calling  
to which you are called:

**We cannot do this alone,  
we dare not try this alone,  
so we gather as God's people.**

Lead a life worthy of your calling,  
a life filled with service and meekness.

**We come to build up Christ's Body,  
in humility and gentleness,  
with patience and love.**

Lead a life which reflects your calling,  
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

**We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;  
we would share the grace offered to us.**

Live a life worthy of the calling  
to which you have been called.

**We gather as God's family  
at the Table prepared for us,  
waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.**

## PRAYER FOR UNITY

from the Catholic Doors Ministry website. Reposted at re: Worship,  
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/prayer-for-unity-make-us-one.html>.

**Jesus Christ, our Lord and our brother, you have called us to be your one Church.  
Make us one in our faith and hope, and one in our loving service. Make us one in worship and in daily living.  
Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to make us one as you want us to be.  
We ask this, Jesus, for you are our Lord and our Savior forever. Amen.**

### **Praise Hymn FWS #2221 "In Unity We Lift Our Song"**

*Text Author: Ken Medema Publication Date: 2001 Copyright:© 1994 Briar Patch Music*

*Tune Composer: Martin Luther Copyright: Public Domain*

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side,  
the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

4 That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!

## ***We Hear God's Word***

**New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 4:1-16**

**New Revised Standard Version**

1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." 9 (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) 11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to

maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

### Children's Moments

#### **Faith Hymn FWS #2268 "As We Gather at Your Table"**

*Text Information: Author: Carl P. Daw, Jr. Publication Date: 2001 Copyright: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.*

*Tune Information: Composer: Skinner Chávez-Melo Copyright: © 1985 Skinner Chavez-Melo*

1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your  
presence;  
let our hearts and minds be  
stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy  
banquet  
how to make Love's victory  
known.

2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve  
you,  
bringing peace where there is  
strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great  
compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us  
summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will  
welcome  
those who had been last and  
least.  
There no more will envy blind  
us  
nor will pride our peace  
destroy,  
as we join with saints and  
angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

### **\*Meditation\***

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(inspired by John 17, Ephesians 4)

*From the Liturgy of the French Reformed Church. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/prayer-of-confession-for-christian.html>.*

O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ;  
we pray for the unity of your Church.

Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith,  
of understanding and of charity,  
which are the causes of our divisions.

Deliver us from narrow-mindedness,  
from our bitterness,  
from our prejudices.

Save us from considering as normal  
that which is a scandal to the world  
and an offence to your love.

Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace  
among all those who call upon you  
and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## 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**

Father, we, your people come before you today and lay prostrate at your feet. We realize that what is done in the dark will surely come to light when left unacknowledged and unrepented. It will fester, not only polluting our spirit, mind, and body, but the spirits, minds, and bodies of the community around us.

We thank you for the members of your body that in love and with holy reverence, to you, reveal our faults and secret sins that lie within us. May you give us a spirit that is teachable, repentant, and open to receiving correction and edification from whatever source or disciple of Christ you choose to use.

May we never be too proud, too important, or too educated for correction. Pride comes before the fall, and we choose to stand this day facing head on every fault, failure, and frustration in our life. We will not shrink from the dirt of our lives.

We will not hide the pain. We will be a place of safety for other believers and, in doing so, will ourselves find safety.

Thank you, Father, for your mercy and grace that withholds the punishment that our sin deserved. Bless us, your body, may we continue to uphold one another in prayer and wisdom, speaking only that which the Holy Spirit gives us utterance to speak.

In Jesus' name we come to you and offer the prayer our savior taught us to pray...

### **\*Departing Hymn UMH #575 "Onward, Christian Soldiers" (verses 1,3,5)**

*Author: Sabine Baring-Gould (1864)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Composer: Arthur S. Sullivan (1871)*

1 Onward, Christian soldiers,  
marching as to war, With the cross  
of Jesus going on before!  
Christ, the royal Master,  
leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
see his banner go!

**[Refrain]**

**Refrain:**

**Onward, Christian soldiers,  
marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
going on before!**

3 Like a mighty army  
moves the church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading  
where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided;  
all one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine,  
one in charity.

**[Refrain]**

5 Onward, then, ye people,  
join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices  
in the triumph song;  
Glory, laud, and honor,  
unto Christ the King;  
This thro' countless ages  
men and angels sing. **[Refrain]**

## **COMMISSIONING**

**(inspired by 2 Corinthians 4:13-14 and Mark 3:33-35)**

*Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, © 2011 Abingdon Press by Mary Scifres. Posted on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship>.*

Sisters and brothers of Christ, go into all the world!

Go forth with forgiveness and grace.

Go forth with compassion and love.

We go as Christ's family

for all the world to see.