

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

+++++

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

**Prelude
Welcome**



“Born to Trouble”

Worship Series

Week 3

What ought we expect when we come to worship? To ease into some comfortable bubble protected from the difficult world out there. Or to be shaken to the core by the awesome majesty of the God we worship? To be honest, there is nothing wrong with the warm comfort of the presence of God through the caring community that is the church. But once in a while, we do need to be reminded of what it is that we mean when we speak of the awesome God. What Job encounters in our text this week is a God who overwhelms and transforms him, even in the depth of his pain. Some of the greatest poetry in literature anywhere can be found in these chapters of the book of Job. This is God in all glory and power and majesty.

The sheer majesty of these words makes me wonder if it was not anger, not rage that drove this moment, but simply God being God. What if God is simply (simply in divine terms, you understand) giving the Creator’s case the way Job wanted to give his personal case? Maybe, this is a moment that prefigures what the theologians call the “condescension” of God, choosing to come down and meet us where we are and meeting us in love and in beauty. Maybe this whirlwind is not the destructive tornado that punishes and destroys, but instead a new wind that blows in a new vision of God and a new way of relating to the one who loves us so completely.

We will sometimes speak of encountering God as though it were a walk in the park. And certainly, there are examples of a gentler approach to meeting the creator of all that is. Yet, Job’s experience is not so gentle. One thing that is clear throughout the biblical witness is that no one encounters God and comes away unchanged. The question is, “Are we ready to be transformed by meeting God in worship?”

As we search within ourselves to answer such a question we must do so by first reviling our sinful self. We must be willing to say - Lord, you know how many times I thought I knew ...
How to run my life
How to fix “their problems, and
How you should answer prayer.

But each time, through trauma or tragedy, hardship or hard times, you remind me how much I don't know about your will. Though I may not like it at the time, please remind me that you are God, and I am not. Ask me questions I can't answer. Give me answers I can't comprehend. Remind me that you laid the earth's foundation. That you speak and the winds obey. That you squeeze the clouds 'til rain falls. Then give me the good sense to hold my peace and meditate on what you've just said.

A Call to Worship

Roger D. Straw, in Flames of Spirit: Resources for Worship, Ruth Duck, ed, Pilgrim Press, 1985, 60.

Leader: God created the heavens and the earth.

People: And gave them to us to use and enjoy.

Leader: And God breathed life into each of us, and set us on the earth.

People: And God sent Jesus Christ to save us from the pull of death.

Leader: Everything that fills our souls with gladness and light is a gift from the loving Creator.

People: We have been entrusted with unfathomable riches. For all this our God is to be praised. Let us worship God together!

PRAYER

Jann C. Weaver, in Flames of Spirit: Resources for Worship, Ruth Duck, ed, Pilgrim Press, 1985, 49.

Your grace is near, O God, for you are the God of the storm. You wait in silence for us until we are open to you. Tune us to hear your voice, to face your silence without fear. Speak and bring to us our Savior, Jesus Christ, to giver of your peace. In the name of this one whom we know as the world's Savior, we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn TFWs # 2130 The Summons

Words: John Bell Music Traditional Scottish Words 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. G2 3DH Admin. By GIA Publications, Inc © 2003, Abingdon Press, 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

Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Job 38:1-7 (34-41) (NRSV)

The Lord Answers Job

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

7 when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings[a] shouted for joy?

34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

35 Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, 'Here we are'?
36 Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,[a]
or given understanding to the mind?[b]
37 Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
38 when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?

39 "Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
40 when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?
41 Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn TFWS #2191 Eternal Father Strong to Save

Eternal Father, Strong to Save Words William Whiting Music Jon B Dykes © 2000, Abingdon Press, 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.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bid the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word
the wind and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bid their angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.

Meditation

THE RANSOM HAS BEEN PAID

A Prayer, Inspired by Mark 10:35-45

Since being exiled from the Garden, O so long ago, we have been held hostage to death. There was no way of escaping the clutches of death. The price was too high, and we could never truly pay it off to become free. There were not enough sacrifices to atone for the sins that we had committed.

Then, Father, you had a plan to change that. You sent your Son as the Advocate on our behalf, to snatch us from the Kidnapper, Death. With three nails, a cross, and a crown of thorns, Jesus paid the price to set us free from the jailhouse. With the power of the Resurrection, Jesus paid our ransom and snatched back the keys to the shackles that held us prisoner to our sins. With his crimson blood, he took away our filth and made us clean. Whom the Son has set free is truly free indeed. We were once on the outside looking in. Now we have a seat at the Welcome Table. As we gather here, as newly freed souls or souls that have been on the battlefield for some time, help us to remember we are no longer hostages to our past. Open our ears and hearts to listen to the refreshing word that will further convince us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. May someone have an awakening experience to the fact that he or she can be set free today. In the Name of the One who paid the price, we pray. Our Father...

Departing Hymn #144 This is My Father's World

This is My Father's World Maltbie D Babcock. 1901, *Music Trad. English melody; adpt. By Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915* © 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

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:

why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

SENDING FORTH:

Lord, we have been so focused on having seats in the kingdom that we almost lost focus on the work of the kingdom.

Father, we have become so pious that we are neglecting those who need you most.

So, as we leave this place, may we not just bask in your Word.

Let us take what we have learned today and apply it the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Let us not become so focused on the everlasting but shift to what we can do for you today.

You did not pay the price for our sin for us to keep this gift to ourselves.

*We have a charge to keep and a God to glorify.

We have a never-dying soul to save and fit it for the sky.

Let's get to work and build God's kingdom while we still have breath in our bodies.

Amen.