

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 7

The author of Ephesians wants us to realize that we are not left without resources as we seek to be made into disciples and to make disciples. In a way, this is the gear we have been “gearing up for life” throughout the series. So, what are these tools and how do we employ them in our daily lives?

Truth as a belt? Righteousness as a breastplate? How do these things function in our daily lives?

These are the gifts and the graces that God provides to help us along the way. And above all is the sense of community that surrounds us as we seek to make use of this gear. This is a faith that impacts our daily lives, not just an hour on Sunday, but a sustaining faith; a faith worth gearing up for.

A Call to Worship

(Litany based on Ephesians 6:10-20) Joseph W. Daniels, The Africana Worship Book for Year B, Discipleship Resources, 2007, 97.

PUT IT ON, somebody! Put on God’s wardrobe.

Put on God’s clothing, with its strength and its power.

PUT IT ON, somebody!

Deck yourself out in God’s wear so that you can withstand wickedness.

PUT IT ON, somebody!

Put on God’s threads so that you can fight the right fight; not against flesh but against foolishness in foul places.

One: PUT IT ON, somebody!

Put on the belt of truth so that you can stand.

Put it on!

Put on the jacket of righteousness so that you can stand.

One: Put it on!

Put on those shoes of peace so that you can stand.

One: Put ‘em on!

Take up that shield of faith to deny the destructive darts of the devil, and stand!

Take it up and put it on!

Put on the hat of salvation so that you can stand. Take hold of that spiritual sword of the Spirit and stand in God’s word.

Put it on!

Clothe yourself with prayer, cover somebody else in prayer.

PUT IT ON, SOMEBODY. PUT ON GOD’S WARDROBE and STAND!

OPENING PRAYER

(based on 1 Kings 8, Ephesians 6:10-20)

Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>. Also posted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/08/opening-prayer-proper-16-b.html>.

Holy One of mystery and power, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk before you with pure and upright hearts. Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place. Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #328 "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place"

Author: Lanny Wolfe (1977)

Publication Date: 1989

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Tune Information

Name: WOLFE

Composer: Lanny Wolfe (1977)

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Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power and His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 6:10-20

(New Revised Standard Version)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH #374 "Standing on the Promises"

Author: R. Kelso Carter

Composer: R. Kelso Carter

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in
the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the
promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when
the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the

living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the
promises of God. **[Refrain]**

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Meditation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For Ephesians 6:10-20

(Kwasi Kena)

Posted at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/21st-century-worship-resources-for-the-thirteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-ye>

Hear our prayers, Lord.

How we long to cease

This struggle against one another -- futile, endless, prideful struggle.

Hear us over the noise of restlessness and worry.

Forgive us, Lord, and hear our prayers

Even when we have run everywhere else first -- before turning to you.

Remind us that the real struggle is not against blood and flesh.

Remind us that the real fight is spiritual.

Prepare us for the real battle. Clothe us in your armor.

Teach us to pray in your Spirit,

To pray for one another,

To pray for boldness to be what you have created us to be.

Hear our prayers, Lord. As we come before you today asking for your guidance and in share in the prayer your
loving Son taught us - Our Father...

Departing Hymn UMH #575 “Onward, Christian Soldiers” (verses 1 & 5)

Author: Sabine Baring-Gould (1864)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: ST. GERTRUDE

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 banners go!

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

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 through countless ages men and angels sing.

(Refrain)

COMMISSION & BLESSING

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Go out and make known the mystery of the gospel.
Keep alert and pray at all times.
Draw strength from God's power
and stand firm against all that would corrupt you.

And may God arm you with truth and righteousness;
May Christ Jesus give you words of Spirit and life;
and may the Holy Spirit draw you near to God's presence
.....and bless you with honor and grace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.