

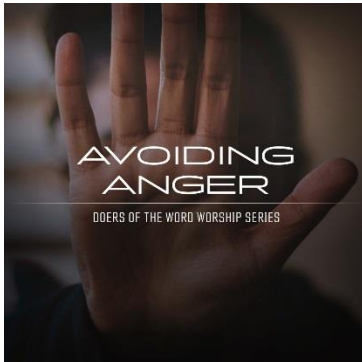
Racine/Sumner Center UMC

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



“Doers of the Word”

Worship Series

Week 1

Our new series begins here on the last Sunday in August. We center our focus on being doers of the word. This isn't about works righteousness, but about living out the salvation we have received by grace through faith.

In part, we are asking in this series, “You’ve been saved or claimed by Christ, so what now? How will your life be different, look different, act different because of that primary relationship? What influence does faith have on your actions?”

In one sense, we are still the same – human, fallible, sinful. But in another sense, we are new creations, ready to embrace a new reality of living. Whether we’ve done this now for years or whether we are newly minted followers of Jesus, we continually ask ourselves how – “is it with our souls” and with our living these days.

A Call to Worship

Hungering to Be Real

(Based on James 1:17-27)

Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, The Africana Worship Book for Year B (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 69.

We gather today hungry to be real. With genuine smiles and actions that match our hallelujahs. We are not content to just master the power handshake of strength.

We want also to master the partner handshake of mutual respect and mutual support.

No more lip service; we want to be real!

We yearn to rise above culture and prejudice to a mindset where foreigners and strangers are not held in contempt and all are invited to God’s table.

No more lip service; we want to be real!

Praise Hymn # 152 I Sing the All Mighty Power of God

I Sing the All Mighty Power of God Words *Isaac Watts, 1715* Music: *Trad. English melody; arr. By Ralph Baughan Williams, 1906* © 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

I sing the almighty power of God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below,
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.

A GENERAL PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Timothy J. Crouch, OSL, Nancy B. Parks, OSL, Chris E. Visminas, Mark R. Babb, OSL, And Also With You: Worship Resources Based on the Revised Common Lectionary Year B, OSL Publications, 1993, 121.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you alone do wondrous things. Blessed be your glorious Name for ever; may your glory fill the whole earth. We know that every good endowment and every perfect gift comes down from you. By the power of your Holy Spirit, bring us forth in your truth that we may be the first fruits by the hearing and doing of your Word.

You have called us to care for the widows and orphans and any in their affliction. Go with us as we bring your hopeful and healing grace to all those committed to our care. May those in despair from any trouble or infirmity see the flowers of hope appear; may they enter into the time of singing their thanksgiving for your tender care.

O God anoint us with the oil of gladness and lead us to the ivory palaces of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... James 1:17-27

(New Revised Standard Version)

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. 26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn #557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Words and music by Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

Meditation

Prayer of Thanksgiving
(inspired by James 1:17-18)

Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above.... James 1:17

~ adapted from a prayer written by Rev Ian Elston, Kirkcaldy, Torbain. Posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/starters_for_sunday/

Father, we give thanks for all that you have done for us,
for the gift of life—of growing and learning
and experiencing the wonders of Your World
For the gift of love—of sharing and caring,
and seeing glimpses of You
in the joy of friendship, the care of family, the love between parent and child;

Lord, make us mindful of all your gifts,
that we may be content and grateful,
giving our love and lives to you all our days;
Fill us with grateful hearts
And remind us constantly of all You have given us
that we may never take for granted Your love
and Your generosity and Your goodness.

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 #672 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Author: Jeremiah E. Rankin (1880)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: GOD BE WITH YOU

Composer: William G. Tomer (1880)

1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again

Commission & Benediction

(inspired by James 1:17-27)

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Go out and be doers of the Word.
Cleanse your hearts of all pollution,
be quick to listen and learn,
welcome the Word that God implants in you,
and bring it to birth in acts of righteousness and compassion.

And may God pour grace upon you and bless you forever;
May Christ Jesus reveal to you the truth of God's ways;
and may the Holy Spirit fill your life with passion and love.
In the name of Christ. Amen.