

*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



Announcements/Joys & Concerns

Some say that happiness, according to the world around us, depends on 'happenings'. If things go according to what I have planned, then I am happy. But if the opposite is the case, happiness disappears. It is a happiness that comes and goes, it doesn't last. Jesus here is talking about happiness based on God's profound love for us. He is teaching us that if we seek happiness for happiness' sake, we will always be disappointed. However, if we seek God and his kingdom, happiness will be a reality regardless of the circumstances.

We think this world is the way things are. We think this world is normal. But it is not normal. It is not right. It is not the way God intended. Everything is upside-down and backwards.

Christ reveals this in the sermon of Luke 6. He challenges everything that people think is normal and flips it upside down to show how things really are from God's perspective, and how they will be in eternity. Because of this, each of His statements are shocking. Each statement of Christ is a jolt of reality in our twisted world.

Let us unite this day in the blessings and Woes of Jesus Christ sermon on the mount and the beatitudes.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who are without blame.

Blessed are those who walk in God's way.

Happy are those who are faithful.

Blessed are those who seek God.

We will obey your word, O God.

We will praise you forever!

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy One: teach us your ways, lead us in your paths, guide us on our journey. Speak to us your words of life, for you offer us direction and wholeness when we hear your voice and follow. You bless us with your love, shower us with your grace, and help us grow in faith. We seek you, O God, with all our hearts. Be near us this day. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 545 "The Church's One Foundation"**

Author: Samuel J. Stone (1866)

Publication Date: 1989

Composer: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)

**1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**3. Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading.....Luke 6:17-26

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Teaches and Heals

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

*20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

21 *"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.*

*"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.*

22 *"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[a] on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.*

24 *"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.*

25 *"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.*

*"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.*

26 *"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.*

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN TFWS 2176

"Make Me a Servant"

Author: Kelly Willard

Publication Date: 2001

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**Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant (x2)
Make me a servant today!**

**Even though You were in the form of God,
You took the form of a slave.
You accepted death even on a cross,
So God exalted Your name.**

**Ere You formed me in my mother's womb,
You called me by my name.
And you touched my mouth and appointed me
A prophet to the world**

**May I heal the sick and the crippled bind,
Bring back the sheep that stray.
May I seek the lost and the weak made strong,
With justice feed the poor.**

"Message"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sisters and brothers,
let us lift our hearts in faith
to the one who hears all prayers
and holds close all those in need.

Prayers of the People.....

Holy God, you gather the whole universe
into your radiant presence
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.
Bring healing to all wounds,
make whole all that is broken,
speak truth to all illusion,
and shed light in every darkness,
that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ.
We come before you this day, many voices sharing one prayer, the prayer your beloved
Son taught us to pray, our Father...

Departing Hymn FWS #2215

"Cares Chorus"

Author: Kelly Willard

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**I cast all my cares upon You
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet
And any time I don't know what to do
I will cast all my cares upon You**

**I cast all my cares upon You
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet
And any time I don't know what to do
I will cast all my cares upon You**

**I cast all of my cares upon You
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet
And any time that I don't know what to do
I will cast all my cares upon You
I will cast all my cares upon You**

SENDING FORTH

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given
to you. May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

***POSTLUDE**