

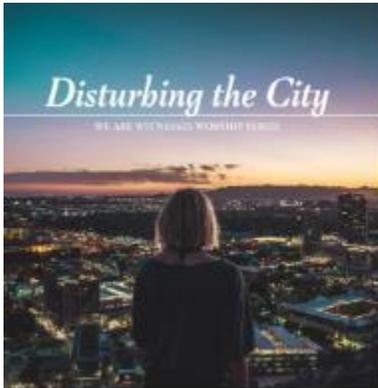
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



“We Are Witnesses”

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

“Good trouble” is a phrase that has grown in the consciousness of the nation. Representative John Lewis, a towering figure for civil rights, coined the phrase; and more than that, he lived it. Our text for this week says there are wrongs that need righted. But maybe it isn’t quite that clear. It says there are systems, there are presumptions and prejudices, there are oppressive

patterns and economic cycles that are impossible to break out of without help. How will we disturb the city today?

But wait, you may be thinking, we can’t get political and I promise you I am not thinking about a political platform here. I am talking about a different approach.

Folks we are in the kingdom building business and it is our job to go out and be leaders in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, I ask you - What would that transformation look like today?

What would be different in the kin-dom of God?

Those are 2 great thoughts as we gather in worship.

For today is a day of casting a vision of what it means to be working toward, leaning toward, co-creating with God the kin-dom we long for.

Call to Worship:

In a world filled with violence and war,

we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.

In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.

In a world filled with hunger and greed,

we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.

Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.

Opening Prayer:

God of freedom, Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 133 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

Author: Elisha A. Hoffman (1887)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: SHOWALTER

Composer: Anthony J. Showalter (1887)

**1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain:

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)**

**3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
(Refrain)**

We Hear God’s Word

**New Testament Reading..... Acts 16:16-34
New Revised Standard Version**

Paul and Silas in Prison

16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. 17 While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you[a] a way of salvation.” 18 She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had

them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. 23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 The jailer[b] called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 They spoke the word of the Lord[c] to him and to all who were in his house. 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN UMH #547 "O Church of God, United" Verses 1, 2, & 4

Author: Frederick B. Morley (1953)

Publication Date: 1989

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**1 O church of God, united
to serve one common Lord,
proclaim to all one message,
with hearts in glad accord.
Christ ever goes before us;
we follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps
along the upward way.**

**2 From every land and nation
the ordered ranks appear;
to serve one valiant leader
they come from far and near.**

**They chant their one confession,
they praise one living Lord,
and place their sure dependence
upon his saving word.**

**4 May thy great prayer be answered
that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united
in thee, God's blessed Son:
to bring a single witness,
to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness
may find the one true light.**

"Message"

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

*In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,
let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing:*

You who created us,
who sustain us,
who call us to live in peace,
hear our prayer this day.

Hear our prayer for all who have died,
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone ...

Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others
ahead of their own
and give us hearts as generous as theirs ...

Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives
in the service of others,
and accept the gift of their sacrifice ...

Help us to shape and make a world
where we will lay down the arms of war
and turn our swords into ploughshares
for a harvest of justice and peace ...

Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...

Hear our prayer this day
and in your mercy answer us
in the name of all that is holy. As we bow before you
in the name of Jesus Christ, and share in the prayer
He taught us to pray, our Father...

Departing Hymn UMH #717 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (verses 1-3)

Author: Julia Ward Howe (1861, alt.)

Publication Date: 1995

**1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the
coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the
grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his
terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.**

Refrain:

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.**

**2 I have seen him in the watchfires of a
hundred circling camps,
they have builded him an altar in the
evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence by the
dim and flaring lamps;
his day is marching on. [Refrain]**

**3 He has sounded forth the trumpet that
shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before
his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be
jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Today is for remembering - - stand in honor of them, walk in their path of duty, remember the cost, and hold in your heart the cause of freedom. Remembering those who have passed is only half of the task that is before us today. We must also carry their love, honor and duty forward to the future generations that will pass. Our children must know who they were, what they did and why they did it. To do anything less, would be a disservice to their sacrifice and their memories. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**