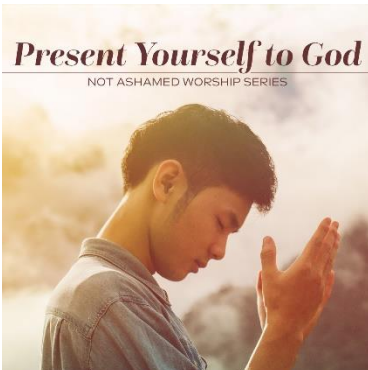


As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

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

How would you sum up your faith in a way that which gives your life meaning and direction? We start today in the letters to the young Timothy with a suggestion that Timothy (and through him all of us) need to find something that would hold him and us in difficult times. "All for Jesus, I surrender." Timothy's mentor has wrapped his whole life around this statement, this declaration of faith – And in this relationship, in this person to whom he has invested his identity and reason for being, he knows freedom, even when condemned as a criminal.

Then the "ifs" come. But for the writer and for Paul (whether they are one in the same or not), the "ifs" have already happened. If we have died with him – check. If we endure – check again and again. If we deny him – wait, no not that, didn't do that. Therefore, we could read the opposite: if we don't deny him – check. If we are faithless – ah, now this one is tricky. Is there room for moments of doubt? Is there room for failures of will in Paul's confession of faith. Here it is. If we are faithless, Christ remains faithful. This carries the implied understanding that when faithlessness passes and faith is picked up again, Christ will continue to walk in faith with you.

But all these "ifs" become a way of describing a life. This is not "if, then, maybe." No, they point to the investment of self in the discipleship path. Folks, we aren't passive spectators waiting to be rescued from this broken world, subject to the winds of fate and the frailties of our own commitment. No, we are called to lean in, to grab hold. We are called to be unafraid of failure, to take risks in living out the call of our faith. Yes, we are being made disciples of Jesus Christ; it is not by our power but by the transforming work of the Spirit within us. We partner with that Spirit, surrendering ourselves to that power at work within us. And then we partner with the Spirit in making disciples of others. And all of this disciple-making is not the end in itself. We are making disciples for the transformation of the world. "Do your best," the mentor tells Timothy and us; do your best to present yourself to God.

Let us come together and center ourselves in the words from 2 Timothy 2:8-15 (NRSV)
8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

11 The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

he[a] cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

14 Remind them of this and warn them before the Lord[b] that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Timothy 2, Luke 17)

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we need healing,
make us whole!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are isolated and excluded,
bring us near!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are chained,
break our bonds!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are dying,
bring us back to life!**

If we have died with him,
we will also live with him.

**If we endure,
we will also reign with him. Amen!**

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 66, 2 Timothy 2)

**We give praise to you, O God,
for you are awesome and amazing.
We remember your deeds and faithfulness—
deeds that have brought us to this day,
faithfulness that has helped us weather
life's storms.
We have gone through fire and water,
and stand before you today
in gratitude and praise.
How awesome are your deeds, O God! Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#530 "Are Ye Able, Said the Master"**

Author: Earl Marlatt (1926)

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<https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/199316>

**1 "Are ye able," said the Master,
"To be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"To the death we follow Thee."**

**2 Are ye able to remember,
When a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy
Of a place in paradise? [Refrain]**

Refrain:

**Lord, we are able.
Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us,
Like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance
Above us shall be
A beacon to God,
To love, and loyalty.**

**3 Are ye able when the shadows
Close around you with the sod,
To believe that spirit triumphs,
To commend your soul to God?
[Refrain]**

**4 "Are ye able?" Still the Master
Whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer
Now, as then, in Galilee. [Refrain]**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Luke 17:11-19

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Cleanses Ten Men with a Skin Disease

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus[a] was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus's[b] feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Children's Sermon

HYMN UMH #394 "Something Beautiful" (sing twice)

Author: Gloria Gaither (1971)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1971 William J. Gaither

Tune Information

Composer: William J. Gaither (1971)

Copyright: © 1971 William J. Gaither

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll-s2Lf-AmM>

**Something beautiful, something good;
All my confusion he understood**

**All I had to offer him
Was brokenness and strife
But he made something beautiful
Of my life**

“Message”

PASTORAL PEOPLE

We Are Grateful

(Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:8-15)

O Lord, our Creator and Sustainer, you give us seasons to plant, to grow, to harvest, and to rest, and we are grateful. As the leaves turn and fall from the trees during autumn, help us to embrace these seasons and changes in our own lives as a natural part of this thing we call life. There are ups and down, twists and turns, doubts and fears, trials and triumphs and just when we are about to be ensnared by evil and destruction, you part the waters so we can step over and walk safely across our miseries, strife, and obstacles.

You have created each one of us uniquely and molded us beautifully into your own image – simply because we are yours. Help us to stand strong and sure when the winds blow fiercely; give us courage to walk proudly and confidently like we’re supposed to. Remind us that through it all you are with us, every moment, every step, every time and in every situation – no matter who or where we are. It is in this knowledge we come before you today and we join our voices together, using the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

(Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

God of love and compassion, the need for your presence in this world is often overwhelming. Confrontation and division are everywhere we look: in communities, in our countries, in our church, and in our world. We have endured much, and others have had to endure so much more. The apostle Paul reminds us that if we endure, we will reign with Jesus. May the gifts we give help all your children endure in these strange and challenging times. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen. (2 Timothy 2:8-15)

Departing Hymn TFWS #2184 “Sent Out In Jesus Name”

Author: José Aguiar

Copyright: © José Aguiar

(Dropbox\Music From Discipleship Website folder)

**Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.**

**The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.**

Benediction

May we leave this worship moment, resolved to be a sign of God’s presence, to be an ambassador of God’s grace, and a hospitable proclaimer of God’s truth. Amen

***POSTLUDE**