
*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



Today we celebrate big dreams, grand visions. Today, we imagine what is possible with God in our own congregation, in our own community. Today, we give thanks for all that has been, even as we ask God to take us further, to equip us for more.

Jesus sent the disciples out and asked them to trust that the resources that they needed to accomplish their mission were within reach. He told them to not focus on what they didn't have or what they couldn't afford, but to work with what was available to them. That level of trust is a high calling. And we often find ourselves falling short by focusing on our limitations or our lack rather than on the abundance that God has already provided to us.

Folks, we are called to out-of-the-box thinking, to the creative use of resources, and ultimately to trust that we have enough and we are enough—enough to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, today let's enter this worship with our focus on prayer for deeper trust, for opened eyes, for willing hearts and hands. Let's share this time as a time of stirring us up to go and proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

A Call to Worship

Welcome, you who are called as disciples of Christ! Is anything too wonderful for our God?

Nothing is too wonderful for God who saves us and calls us!

We remember the goodness of God who promised Abraham a multitude of descendants and then showed up at Abraham's door to announce that the promise would be fulfilled.

Nothing is too wonderful for God who promises and fulfills promises!

We remember the compassion of Jesus who noticed the distress of his neighbors and acted to bring them healing and wholeness.

Nothing is too wonderful for God who heals and restores the distressed!

We remember the invitation the Spirit extends to us to join in God's work of compassionate community building.

Nothing is too wonderful for God who empowers us to transform strangers into community through active love.

As we worship, may we receive the promise, the compassion, and the invitation to be disciples of Christ who join in God's work of making disciples for the transformation of our households, our community, and our world.

Because nothing is too wonderful for our God!

Opening Payer

Lord we have heard you call us, heard you ask to enter our lives.

You are our God and Savior: we come before you in worship and praise.

We have heard you call us to be your disciples, learning from you.

You are our leader and teacher: we come to listen to your living Word.

We have heard you call us to serve you lovingly in the world.

Lord, you are the Spirit of life and love: we come to offer our lives to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Praise Hymn UMH #374 "Standing on the Promises of Christ My King" (verses 1-3)

Author: Russell Kelso Carter (1886)

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**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]**

**Gospel Reading.....Matthew 9:35-10:23
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest

is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The Twelve Apostles

1 Then Jesus[a] summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;[b] 4 Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

The Mission of the Twelve

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’[c] 8 Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

9 Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. 11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Coming Persecutions

16 “I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. 19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH#568 "Christ for the World We Sing" (verses 1-3)

Author: Samuel Wolcott (1869)

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**1 Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal:
the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow worn,
whom Christ doth heal.**

**2 Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with fervent pray'r:
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost
from dark despair.**

**3 Christ for the world we sing;
the world to Christ we bring
with one accord:
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.**

Message

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ever faithful Lord, ever giving Son, Ever present Spirit, For the many gifts you grant us and the opportunity to enjoy these things; For your daily provision and for the constant signs of your healing love; For the hope amidst despair and the light which always shines; For all these things, 'thank you' is just so inadequate but it's all we have: ... to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action.

So, thank you, Lord and may our thanks move beyond words to transform us into thankful folk, faithful folk, attentive folk, folk who notice need and notice the need to act, folk who love to live and live to love, folk who serve you by serving others.

Help us to be amongst those who include the excluded and bring in those who are marginalized, that when the opportunities come our way to be healers of division and hurt, to be peacemakers and restorers.

Mighty, wonderful Father, we bring before you people and issues from around our world, including those we'll never know personally but who remain our sisters and brothers in you ...

Transforming, healing Father, help us to make the light shine in dark places, to make peace known in violent places, and to bring hope to despondent places. Our prayers, spoken and silent are brought to you now in the name of your Son, Jesus, the healer, includer and redeemer, who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/ Offertory Prayer

Mighty God, with your powerful arms, hold up your church! We are struggling through tough times in our churches; we need to be renewed again and filled with your power. Reach inside us and open hearts wide that we might give the full measure of our devotion. As you revived the saints who came before us, revive us to go out and welcome the forgotten, heal the sick, speak the words of comfort and hope to the discouraged. In the holy name of Christ, we pray. Amen. (Matt 9:35-10:8 (9-23))

Departing Hymn UMH #664

“ Sent Forth By God’s Blessing “

Author: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

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Harmonizer: Charles G. Frischmann

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**1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ’s teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

SENDING FORTH

As you go from this place, go together and trust that when we follow the joy of God's call into the unknown, God will equip us and empower us for the work ahead because nothing is too wonderful for God! Amen.

Postlude