

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

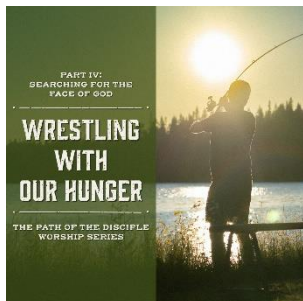
+++++

**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements – Joys/Concerns**



**Opening Meditation**

Throughout this summer, we(as leaders) have hoped to stir some excitement about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In our worship time together, we have also spoken honestly about the difficulty but also considered some of the joys that come with following this path. As we are in the final part of the discipleship series let us now focus on the community that gathers for worship and let us be reminded that we are indeed following a God who is at work in the world.

Now, whether you call them “God-sightings” or “glory moments,” being alert to the presence of God is a fundamental requirement for the disciple. Some might even argue that it is these discovery moments that keep us going on the pathway to discipleship. They are oases or rest stops along the way that refresh us and remind us that we are not alone and that we do have strength for the journey.

And worship is where we can announce that we are hungry for God. We come together and call upon the Lord to meet us here in worship, to fill us, and send us out into the world full of that presence and that hope. We are seeking the face of God when we gather but also when we scatter. Our hunger for God is not only met when we gather for worship but also when we are at work, when we are in fellowship, when we engage in conversations and building relationships, when we serve and love as we are sent to do. So, I say today let the benediction not be an end of our searching, but an invitation to carry the search for God’s presence beyond the walls of the church. Come, let us take this time to share our love with our Lord...

**A Call to Worship**

Beloved disciples, welcome. Some of us come weary and hungry, while others come rested and content. Still others come ready to wrestle with the questions that keep us up at night. No matter how you enter this space, we say,

**Come, let us worship God together!**

Together, we notice the fatigue we carry, the exhaustion that comes from our hunger for care and connection with one another and with God. Yet, when God says to feed one another, we answer,

**We have nothing but...**

Together, we feel the unrest and turmoil of grappling with the unknown, unsure whether we are fighting for everyone's wellbeing or merely our own stability. Yet, when God tells us to start by loving God and our neighbors, we answer,

**We have nothing but...**

Together, then, let us wrestle with our hungers that we may be transformed into people who seek and find God all around us, so that when God calls us to feed the hungry and struggle for those in need of help, we answer,

**In you, we have everything. Use us as you will.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

God, You have called us into a whole-hearted relationship with You.

You've asked us to leave behind all we possess and live out our faith with passion and integrity.

**We thank You for the deep love You have shown toward us. Forgive us when we take our relationship with You for granted, when we let the fire of our early commitment cool,**

**and allow other things to take priority in our lives.**

Give us strength to hold on to You no matter what comes our way. Give us courage to wrestle honestly with the things we don't understand; to continually work out our salvation with fear and trembling, to grapple daily with what it means to faithfully follow You.

**We are Your people, chosen and named by You. Grant us Your continued blessing and mark us with Your love, as we seek to live as Your disciples in the world.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

## **Praise Hymn UMH 111 "How Can We Name a Love"**

*Author: Brian Wren (1973)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.*

*Tune Information*

*Adapter: Franklin L. Sheppard (1915)*

**1 How can we name a Love  
that wakens heart and mind,  
indwelling all we know  
or think or do  
or seek or find?**

**Within our daily world,  
in every human face,  
Love's echoes sound  
and God is found,  
hid in the commonplace.**

**2 If we awoke to life  
built on a rock of care  
that asked no great reward  
but firm, assured,  
was simply there,  
we can, with parents' names,  
describe, and thus adore,  
Love unconfined,  
a father kind,  
a mother strong and sure.**

**3 When people share a task,  
and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new,  
to make or do  
with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will  
is better understood,  
that all should share,  
create, and care,  
and know that life is good.**

**4 So in a hundred names,  
each day we all can meet  
a presence, sensed and shown  
at work, at home,  
or in the street.  
Yet every name we see,  
shines in a brighter sun:  
In Christ alone  
is Love full grown  
and life and hope begun.**

**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)**

**Feeding the Five Thousand**

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

## **Faith Hymn UMH #618 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

*Arranger: William Farley Smith (1986)*

*Copyright: Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House*

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)**

**let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)**

**let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)**

**let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)**

**4 Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)**

**let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)**

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,**

**O Lord, have mercy if you please. (if you please)**

### **Message**

#### **Service of Word and Table 1 (UMH #6)**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE (Begins at the bottom of UMH page 7)**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin to God.

#### **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

In the act of confession, we acknowledge how we have missed the mark, and we call upon God to save us from the destruction of sin and turn us back toward life. Let us now confess our sin before God and one another.

#### **CONFESSION AND PARDON.**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have failed to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (for ordinary time)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.  
And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.  
At his ascension you exalted him  
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**Lord's Prayer**

**BREAKING AND SHARING**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Offertory/Doxology**

### **Offertory Prayer**

*God of power and glory, as we bring our tithes and offerings to be dedicated to the building of your kingdom here on earth, we are reminded of all the blessings we have received. As we hear again the story of Jacob wrestling with the stranger to receive his blessing, remind us that the best blessings come when we are working hard, breaking a sweat, getting our hands dirty working for justice, compassion, and mercy for all your children. Steer us away from being content with the blessings that require little effort. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Gen 32:22-31)*

### **Departing Hymn UMH 664 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"**

*Author: Omer Westendorf (1964)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.*

*Tune Information*

*Harmonizer: Leland Sateren (1972)*

*Copyright: Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God  
from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended,  
O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship  
in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action  
for god and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us,  
and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom  
and answer the call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday  
life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children  
of each tribe and race.**

**With your grace 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 that name which we bear.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Go today full of God's love and ready to notice God in your neighbors' hungers. Go today at rest in God and ready to struggle in loving service for your neighbors. And as you go, may you find the face of God in the hungering, feeding, wrestling, and resting. Amen.

## **Postlude**