

Prairieland Parish

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



Last week, we asked, “What drives us from within? What are we hungry for?” This week, we ask, “What is before us; what is the vision toward which we move?” Now, we ask not just what does God look like or how do we recognize God’s presence in the world, but what would the world look like when it is aware of that presence? What would we look like, what would our community look like if we really believed what we say about Jesus and about grace and salvation? How would it be reflected in our relationships, in our conversations, and in our lives day by day?

When we ask, “What are you seeking?” we are talking about kingdom living. We are talking about the community of faith representing the body of Christ. As we worship this week, let us remember to celebrate the signs of God’s presence among us. We find ways to lift up our acceptance, our hospitality, our fellowship, and our service to the wider community. As we gather today let us give God thanks that we can be and are a sign that God is at work in the world.

A Call to Worship

Beloved disciples, welcome. As we gather, what are you seeking?

We seek God’s presence all around us.

Beloved disciples, if God’s presence is all around us, what are you seeking?

We seek to recognize God’s presence among us.

Beloved disciples, if God is among you, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the faces of family, friends, and neighbors.

Beloved disciples, if God is in the face of your neighbor, what are you seeking?

We seek God in the search and the work for peace and wholeness for all God’s creation.

As we gather today, may we meet God in our seeking and in our finding

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, if it’s you, we need to hear from you...

When we are alone

When we go away to pray

When we have little faith
When we are battered by the waves
When the wind is against us
When we get in the boat
When we're terrified by our ghosts
When we seek you on the mountain
When we cry out in fear
When we start walking on water
When we begin to sink
When we are far from land
Lord, if it's you,
speak to us,
calm our fears,
calm our storms
Strengthen our resolve
Remind us who you are
Walk to us
Call to us
Save us
Reach out your hand and catch us
Quiet the wind around us

Lord, if it's you, we worship you for "Truly you are the Son of God." Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #75 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Attributed to: William Kethe (1561)

Tune Information

Attributed to: Louis Bourgeois (1551)

**1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.**

**2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**3. O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**4. For why! the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 14:22-33(NRSV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,[a] for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind,[b] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Faith Hymn UMH #170 "O How I Love Jesus"

Author: Frederick Whitfield (1855)

**1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.**

Refrain:

**O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

**2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

**3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]**

Message

Prayer of Intercession

God, You have called us to be a people of prayer—
to continue the ministry of intercession handed on to us

by Jesus Christ Himself.

And so we come before You with confidence,
bringing our prayers for the world You love.

We pray for those who, like Jesus' disciples,
find themselves surrounded by high winds and stormy seas;
those who feel overwhelmed by events and circumstances—
and who don't know where to turn.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who, like Joseph,
find themselves deeply wounded by people they love—
people they thought they knew and trusted—
and who are struggling to know how to respond.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who, like Peter,
are experiencing a crisis of faith;
who long to whole-heartedly trust in God
but are held back by questions and doubts.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who, like the prophet Elijah,
have fallen into despair;
who have begun to doubt God's presence and power;
or question God's call in their lives.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, it is not Your will that any should suffer.
We offer our prayers for all those who hunger and thirst,
those who live in the midst of violence or poverty,
and those who feel abandoned or ignored by the world around them.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Through the life-giving power of Your Holy Spirit,
make Your sustaining presence known to all who are in pain or need,
so that they, too, may know Your love and live.

In the name Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives to intercede for us,
Christ Jesus who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Forgiving God, the first offering you ask for is the giving of ourselves, loving you and others boldly, refusing to let our fear of the storms around us keep us from taking risks. Forgive us for times when you have called us to leave our places of comfort, and we've ignored the call. Forgive us when our giving has not grown beyond our safety zone, but you blessed our gifts and us anyway. For those times when we dared to put our foot outside the boat and then sank up to our knees, thank you for not taking your hand away. For all this, we give thanks in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen. (Matthew 14:22-33)

Departing Hymn UMH #672 "God Be With you till We Meet Again" (verses 1 & 4)

Author: Jeremiah E. Rankin (1880)

Composer: William G. Tomer (1880)

**1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**4. God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.
(Refrain)**

SENDING FORTH

Beloved family of Christ, the search is not over. The seeking has only just begun. Yet through it all and in it all, God is with us. May we go today trusting that we are found in God and living so that God is found in us. Amen.

Postlude