

*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**

**Opening Meditation**

Isaiah 40:31 says: “But those who wait for the Lord...” What exactly does this mean, do you think? How can we wait for the Lord? Or aren’t we always waiting for the Lord? It is our condition of life, really. Everything we do involves waiting for the Lord. We pray and then we wait. We work and then we wait. We get on with our lives, yet all the while, we are waiting to see what will happen – what the Lord will do. We can’t force God’s action on anything. We can’t ensure that God will respond to our requests in any way that is visible to us. So, waiting on the Lord is what it means to live in the world. Right? We’re always waiting.

But then again maybe we should take another look at this verse from Isaiah. Maybe we’re in the wrong mode of waiting. As we look deeper Isaiah doesn’t seem to be asking us to wait for God to act. Instead, there seems to be a call to recognize who God is. Have you not known? Have you not heard? Isaiah is asking us to go back to our fundamental understanding of the nature of God. The presence of God. The reality of God. He goes back to the beginning; he looks at the ground beneath our feet. God is a part of all of it. God is the source of all of it—the source of you.

Perhaps the prophet is asking us to pay attention to what already is. We are asked to know that God is among us, around us, within us already. Waiting on the Lord, in this case, means trusting, relying on, and being confident in the Lord. As we lean into the reality that says God is equipping us - as we learn and grow as disciples - as we become those who have heard and those who know. We then begin to see God at work all around us, through the encounters and relationships of the people of God. We wait on God as we wait on those in need around us. Remember, Jesus told us that as we serve – feed, tend, visit, invite – others, we are serving him. He is among us, and we are waiting on – serving – him.

There is power in that service. You’ve seen it. You’ve experienced it. To be in mission together in community. That’s the strength that comes from waiting on the Lord, being aware of the Lord’s presence as one works and gives and loves. There is always more, an abundance of resources, when the people of God decide to pool together to partner with God in building the kin-dom.

## **A Call to Worship**

People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

**We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.**

Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us.

**The Holy One who sustains the universe is near.**

When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

**God strengthens us that we might help carry one another's burdens.**

So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**O God, we are gathered here under the shelter of your wings, nurtured by your motherly love, and encouraged, then, to fly by faith on the wind of your spirit.**

**You have spoken to us, saying "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles." Teach us how to wait, then, that we may learn how to fly. May this nest we call "family" be built with sturdy materials.**

**Don't let us forget, though, that this nest was not created as a fortress behind which to hide, but as a perch from which to take off. And strengthen us with the assurance that we do not fly alone. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Praise Hymn FWS #2222 "The Servant Song"**

*Author: Richard Gillard*

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### **1. Brother, Sister let me be your servant.**

**Let me be as Christ to you.**

**Pray that I might have the grace**

**To let you be my servant, too.**

### **2. We are pilgrims on a journey.**

**We are brothers on the road.**

**We are here to help each other**

**Walk the mile and bear the load.**

### **3. I will hold the Christ-light for you**

**In the night time of your fear.**

**I will hold my hand out to you;**

**Speak the peace you long to hear.**

### **4. I will weep when you are weeping.**

**When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow**

**Till we've seen this journey through.**

### **5. When we sing to God in heaven,**

**We shall find such harmony**

**Born of all we've known together**

**Of Christ's love and agony.**

### **6. Brother, Sister let me be your**

**servant. Let me be as Christ to you.**

**Pray that I might have the grace**

**To let you be my servant, too.**

**Gospel Reading..... Mark 1:29-39 (NRSV)**

### **Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House**

29 As soon as they[a] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

### **A Preaching Tour in Galilee**

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

### **Faith Hymn UMH #398 "Jesus Call Us"**

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**1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying, "Christian, follow me!"**

**2. As of old the apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**3. Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more!"**

**4. In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these!"**

**5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.**

### **Message**

#### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE (UMH #6)**

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.**

**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**

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:

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.

## **Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Offertory/Doxology**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

*God of power and patience, we gather in worship to wait on your presence and to be filled with your power. Jesus healed with a touch and taught us that you are the source of the true healing that can make us whole. As we take time now in worship to offer our gifts to you, we pray that they might be used to bring healing: of body, of spirit, of broken relationships; healing of a planet that is groaning under our carelessness and greed; healing of a world community that is deeply divided by distrust and self-interest. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen*

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

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**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His 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 His children of each tribe and 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 thanks giving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Go now to wait on God, to pay attention to all God is doing around you, and to serve as the Spirit guides you. And may the peace of Christ bless you and keep you wherever you may go. Amen.

### **Postlude**