

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

Opening Meditation

What is in a name?

Does it matter if your name is Mona, Joanna or Maria, Sebastian, Steven or Juan. Does it matter if you use a nickname or an alias -- or even if other people try to name you.

I believe what does matter is that you are known and named by God. When God changed Abram's name, he began the transformation from lonely wanderer to person of God. When Jesus changed Simon's name, he was gradually transformed from sinner into saint. The same God that changed them invites each of us into a Lenten journey of change.

Today, we unite in the truth that it would be all right if Jesus changed our names. We say to him this day - Change us, O God, from sinners into saints. Change us, O God, from lonely wanderers into children of God. Today, let us worship Him who has the authority to change us!

A Call to Worship

Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

Opening Prayer

**Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of time,
you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our shame,
you know us as your beloved.**

**Help us to own that core identity more and more in this season of repentance and
mercy. Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us
as we seek the same in you. Amen.**

Praise Hymn UMH #451 "Be Thou My Vision"

Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1905)
Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull (1912, alt.)
Publication Date: 1989
Copyright: Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Tune Information
Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1963)
Copyright: Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

1
Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best though by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

2
Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou and thou only, first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

3
Great God of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys
O Bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

Gospel Reading..... Mark 8:31-38(NRSV)

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34 He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come[a] after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,[b] will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words[c] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH #338 "Where He Leads Me"

Author: E. W. Blandy (1890)

Publication Date: 1989
Tune Information
Composer: John S. Norris (1890)

**1. I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."**

**Refrain:
Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.**

**2. I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
(Refrain)**

**3. I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
(Refrain)**

**4. He will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.
(Refrain)**

Message

Joys/Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through, And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge.

Purge us from our sin, And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness, that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.
(especially _____)

Give them the joy of your saving help, and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

We pray for those who have died, (especially _____) and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

Cast them not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

We come to you this day united in voice as we pray...Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology

Offertory Prayer

God of all, you love us and have claimed us. As you blessed Sarah and Abraham, you have invited us into the blessing of connection within the family of humanity whom you continue to bless. We give our tithes and offerings in celebration of the depths of our blessing and pray that they will strengthen the church across the world to bless all your children. In the holy name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray in gratitude. Amen. (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16)

Departing Hymn FWS #2196 "We Walk by Faith"

Copyright: Public Domain

**1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;**

**to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**4 That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
in full and endless sight.**

**5 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

BENEDICTION

Go, in God's power that moves through acts of faith.

Open your ear to God's divine revelations.

Depend on God, who is wise beyond the laws of this land.

Do all these things so that all that is right and good permeates each day until we meet again. Amen.

Postlude