

*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 – Father’s Day Blessing**

Bless Our Fathers

Heavenly Father,

Today we ask You to bless our earthly fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom and mercy that You exemplify in Your relationship with us, Your children.

We honor our fathers for putting our needs above their own convenience and comfort; for teaching us to show courage and determination in the face of adversity; for challenging us to move beyond self-limiting boundaries; for modeling the qualities that would turn us into responsible, principled, caring adults.

We ask your blessing on those men who served as father figures in our lives when our biological fathers weren't able to do so. May the love and selflessness they showed us be returned to them in all their relationships, and help them to know that their influence has changed us for the better.

Give new and future fathers the guidance they need to raise happy and holy children, grounded in a love for God and other people – for this is one of the greatest gifts they can give their children.

We pray that our fathers who have passed into the next life have been welcomed into Your loving embrace, and that our family will one day be reunited in your heavenly kingdom.

In the name of your Son we ask Your generous blessings today and every day. Amen.

**Father’s Day Call to Worship  
(based on Psalm 103)**

Come, bless the Lord with me!

**For the Lord is like a father to his children**

compassionate and merciful,

**filled with endless love.**

He forgives our sins,

**and heals the sickness inside us;**

he surrounds us with love and mercy  
**and fills our lives with good things!**  
**Let's worship God together!**

#### **PRAYER OF TRUST**

**Loving God, when we are inclined to worry or panic, speak with authority to us. Speak directly through Jesus so that fears may be confronted and our faith reinstated. Through him and in him let us spend our days and nights with the courage and peace of those who know they are being saved and sustained by an imperturbable grace. And to you be the glory and praise; Amen!**

#### **Praise Hymn UMH #462. "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"**

*Author: Louisa M. R. Stead (1882)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Composer: William J. Kirkpatrick (1882)*

**1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
and to take him at his word;  
just to rest upon his promise,  
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."**

#### **Refrain:**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust him more!**

**2 O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just to trust his cleansing blood;  
and in simple faith to plunge me  
neath the healing, cleansing flood! [Refrain]**

**3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just from sin and self to cease;  
just from Jesus simply taking  
life and rest, and joy and peace. [Refrain]**

**4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,  
precious Jesus, Savior, friend;  
and I know that thou art with me,  
wilt be with me to the end. [Refrain]**

### ***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Mark 4:35-41 (NRSV)**

#### **Jesus Stills a Storm**

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on

the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

## **Children's Message**

### **Faith Hymn #2191 Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

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**Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bid the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Savior, whose almighty word  
the wind and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid its rage did sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
upon the waters dark and rude,  
and bid their angry tumult cease,  
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace;  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and power,  
all travelers guard in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad praise from air and land and sea.**

**\*Meditation\***

**Joys/Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Lord, what do you see when you look at our hearts? When you are passing through the land, looking for someone fit to serve you, will you stop by here? When the world has

broken every heart and you need someone to pour out the balm of Gilead, to shelter the stranger, to declare your peace, would you even consider stopping by here, Lord?

Cleanse our hearts, O God. Search us and scour us and fit us for your service. Help us to mend our ways and to mend fences. Turn us away from the idols of this world and bury our lives in yours. Teach us, afresh, how to live holy and how to truly love the people around us and the people we will never meet face-to-face.

Fix our hearts, O God. We, like the disciples of old, live in perilous times. Violence is all around us. Workplaces too frequently become warzones. It is dangerous for children to go to school. It is unsafe to travel – day or night. Our hearts have been broken by the gods of this world, and we have been bruised and battered by those who would want to wipe your image off our faces.

Guide our hearts to continue to pray for those we have raised to you this day. Place your grace upon them. May we be your love shone to them as they journey through the valley.

We come to you this day with open hearts ready for you to fill with grace, and compassion for this hurting world hear our prayers as we join in the prayer your Son taught us to pray. Our Father...

### **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

God of the heavens, the land and the water that covers it, we know what it is like to be tossed about in a storm. We know that the faith we profess when days are calm and sunny is challenged and shaky when the storm is furious and the water is swamping our boat. As we offer our gifts to you this day, they are given with the hope that we will be better able to let go of what the world tells us will guarantee our security and find our hope and assurance in your redeeming love. Dedicate these gifts in the knowledge that there are other boats besides ours in the same storm. We pray this prayer in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen. (Mark 4:35-41)

### **Departing Hymn #129 Give to the Winds Thy Fears**

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**Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope and be undismayed.  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,  
God shall lift up thy head.**

**Through waves and clouds and storms,  
God gently clears thy way;  
wait thou God's time; so shall this night  
soon end in joyous day.**

**Leave to God's sovereign sway  
to choose and to command;**

**so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,  
how wise, how strong this hand.**

**Let us in life, in death,  
thy steadfast truth declare,  
and publish with our latest breath  
thy love and guardian care.**

**BENEDICTION:**

All of God's creation has responded to his creating. Likewise, we must do the same. So, let us go out into the world understanding that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Let our walk declare his glory. Let our talk sing his praise. Let our attitude make men and women wonder what they must do to be saved. Why? Because we are indeed walking billboards declaring God's glory!