

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

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome – Announcements

Opening Meditation

On this pre-holiday weekend, it seems to me that what we really celebrate is neither a historical happenstance nor the glories of a richly blessed nation. Instead, it is an ideal, a vision of what we could be, what we long to be. We who call the United States of America home love our country, but at the same time, we hope for more – more justice for all, more equality, more hospitality.

We celebrate who we are, even as we celebrate who we might be. “We hold these truths to be self-evident.” This is true of every nation, no doubt. We all want a country that feels like home, which means we need people, all the people - of the people, by the people, and for the people - to show us the way to go home. Show us the way to be home, a home for all God’s children.

As we come together in worship today let us think about drawing the circle as wide as possible – to acknowledge our common kinship through the Spirit. May we think less of being a nation of boasting and more of a nation striving to be the light on the hill, the shining example of the kin-dom of heaven on earth.

Call to Worship

Take off your shoes!

We are standing on holy ground.

Shake off the dust!

We are ready to start afresh.

Let us worship God and receive Christ’s teachings,

that we may be renewed and strengthened

to share God’s love with the world.

OPENING PRAYER: FREEDOM

Gracious God, you have made all of the peoples of the earth for your glory. You invite us to serve you in freedom and in peace. Give to the people of our nation a zeal for justice and the strength for forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. We ask this on a day of celebration, a day of hope for a nation made free. We ask this in the name of the one who welcomes all to be free indeed. Inspire us to live and worship in your freedom and for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #569 “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

Author H. Ernest Nichol (1896)

Publication Date: 1989

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**1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.**

Refrain:

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.**

**2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.
(Refrain)**

**3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.
(Refrain)**

**4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.
(Refrain)**

Gospel Reading.....Mark 6:1-13 (NRSV)

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense[b] at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin,

and in their own house.” 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Word of God for the People of God, Thanks be to God!

Children’s Moments

Faith Hymn UMH #128

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

Author: Joseph H. Gilmore

Composer: William B. Bradbury

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1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

4. And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. [Refrain]

Message

Joy/Concerns

Pastoral Prayer for boldness

God, who was bold enough to speak something into nothing, who sent fire from heaven as a guide just because you could, who gave and still gives these outspoken prophets words that you know will sometimes rub us the wrong way, we need you.

We need boldness that does not fade, so that you can use us like you used your earliest disciples. They healed the sick, raised the dead, and cast out demons. Strangely, we need boldness just to love one another beyond petty arguments and to be reconciled back to one another – as you reconciled the world back to yourself through your Son, Jesus. Lord, make us bold, so that you can use us.

Lord, heal us, so that you can use us. Help us to receive healing from you, with thanksgiving, even when we feel we don't deserve healing. Show us how to walk in happiness and joy, without feeling guilty for either of them. Teach us how to love the unlovable enough to want to contend with the forces of evil for their shalom and for their souls.

We need the kind of boldness that comes from your Holy Spirit. Let it fall fresh upon us every day. Let it meet us in the morning like new mercies. Let it live in us like an all-consuming fire that won't burn out.

In our boldness we raise to you this day.....

We need you. Send your Spirit, Father. We need your Spirit. We thank you for your Spirit. We love you. We have waited and continue to wait on you. In the name of the Father who was/is bold, the Son who came in boldness, and the Spirit who equips us with boldness, we pray together, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Holy God who both calls us and confronts us: the gifts we bring to you are only a small part of multitude we have received from your goodness. In the depth of our being, we know that in calling us, what you really seek is our faith, our belief, our conviction – our very hearts. What you long for from us is not a trip to church but a lifelong journey into the world to follow Jesus with our whole being. Forgive our unbelief, our holding back, and lead us in the way that frees us from the grip of the world – the way of life! In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Mark 6:1-13)

***Departing Hymn UMH #206. "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

Author: Kathleen Thomerson (1966)

Refrain First Line: In him there is no darkness at all

Publication Date: 1989

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I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

**Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

**When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]**

SENDING FORTH

Covenant-keeping God, your faithfulness in spite of our faithlessness brings a sense of awe and unworthiness. Yet, by our baptisms, you call us to be a people sent in ministry and mission to all those you love in and around us. Give us the eyes this week to see where you are calling us and who you are calling us to demonstrate your radical love. Amen.