

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

Friends, what does it mean to be the dwelling place or a dwelling place for God? How can we present the church and/or the community of faith of something worthy of that designation? In this second chapter of Ephesians, this is the description that we are given of the church: the dwelling place of God. God takes up residence among us.

So, as we unite in worship today let us ponder on the question:

What does it mean to be God's home?

CALL TO WORSHIP:

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—

members of God's family,

and brothers and sisters to one another.

There are no outsiders here among us,

no one has any special standing or bragging rights.

For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.

Let's join together in worship!

OPENING COLLECT: CORNERSTONE

Almighty God, you have built your Church

on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching,

that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you:

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Praise Hymn #2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center

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**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, know our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 2:11-22

New Revised Standard Version

One in Christ

11 So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,[a] called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. 15 He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both groups to God in one body[b] through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.[c] 17 So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18 for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.[d] 21 In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually[e] into a dwelling place for God.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn FWS#2149. “Living for Jesus”

Author: T. O. Chisolm

Publication Date: 2001

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Composer: C. Harold Lowden

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**1 Living for Jesus a life that is true,
striving to please him in all that I do,
yielding allegiance glad-hearted and free,**

this is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain:

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior,
I give myself to thee;
for thou in thy atonement
didst give thyself for me.
I own no other master,
my heart shall be thy throne,
my life I give, henceforth to live,
O Christ, for thee alone.**

**2 Living for Jesus, who died in my place,
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace,
such love constrains me to answer his call,
follow his leading, and give him my all. [Refrain]**

**3 Living for Jesus wherever I am,
doing each duty in his holy name,
willing to suffer affliction or loss,
deeming each trial a part of my cross. [Refrain]**

**4 Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
my dearest treasure, the light of his smile,
seeking the lost ones he died to redeem,
bringing the weary to find rest in him. [Refrain]**

Message

Joys/Concerns

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come before you on behalf of the people who work hard and do not have regular rest from their labor. For those who work for inadequate wages and without proper benefits:

For your people who work for Sabbath violators, slave masters, and in sweat shop conditions:

For those who work for modern-day sharecroppers who steal what they have rightly earned:

For those for whom home is a place of work without celebration and appreciation:

Deliverer from slave labor, we ask that you lead your people to places of rest and restoration for their bodies, minds, and souls.

For those in our hearts and who we have named before you this day...

hear our prayers as we come to you in the prayer that your Son has taught us. **Our Father who art in Heaven....**

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Holy God, you love us so deeply that you pursue us relentlessly. You sent your son Jesus into the world that we who were far off would be brought near to you by his blood. We offer our gifts to you, knowing we can never outgive you, never balance the equation. You don't desire balance, no quid-pro-quo, only that we find the peace you desire for us, whose foundation is in your word and whose cornerstone is Christ alone. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.

Departing Hymn #2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

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**I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

Refrain:

**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]**

**When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION:

EPHESIANS 2: 11-22

From re: worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/07/benediction-ephesians-2-11-22.html>.

We leave this place no longer strangers, but members of God's own family, brothers and sisters through the blood of Jesus Christ. Together, we are being built into a holy dwelling place where God lives by the Spirit.

So, go out with joy and confidence to love and serve the world, for we do not go alone.