

PrairieLand Parish

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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



Make every effort
to keep the unity of
the Spirit through
the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3

Prelude – Welcome – Announcements

Opening Meditation

To declare that there is a life worthy of the gospel is to claim that there is a life that isn't. There are choices to be made in how we live out our faith. And some of those choices reveal whether we are indeed "rooted and grounded in love" or not.

Our scripture for this week shows us that a primary sign of the gospel-worthy life is unity. This isn't so much an individual check list of dos and don'ts, but a plumbline by which we measure the health of the whole body. We retain our individuality, of course, as a variety of gifts are needed. But it is the unity of the body that reveals the gospel at work in and among us.

Let us come before the Lord this day with unity as our purpose.

Call to Worship

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

PRAYER FOR UNITY

Jesus Christ, our Lord and our brother, you have called us to be your one Church.

Make us one in our faith and hope, and one in our loving service. Make us one in

worship and in daily living. Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to make us one as you want

us to be. We ask this, Jesus, for you are our Lord and our Savior forever. Amen.

Praise Hymn FWS #2221 "In Unity We Lift Our Song"

Text Author: Ken Medema Publication Date: 2001 Copyright:© 1994 Briar Patch Music

Tune Composer: Martin Luther Copyright: Public Domain

1 In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration for brothers and sisters strong. What cause for celebration For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress who've shared with us our plight who've held us in the night, the blesses congregation

2 For stories told and told again to every generation to give us strength in times of pain to give us consolation. Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive when we are far from home and evil seasons come how firm is our foundation.

3 For sacred scriptures handed down a blesses trust and treasure which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure. And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind, we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.

4 For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver. Our strength our guide our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver. Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away, when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done and we shall sing forever.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 4:1-16

New Revised Standard Version

1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7 But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." 9 (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) 11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14 We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

Children's Moments

Faith Hymn FWS #2268 "As We Gather at Your Table"

*Text Information: Author: Carl P. Daw, Jr. Publication Date: 2001 Copyright: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
Tune Information: Composer: Skinner Chávez-Melo Copyright: © 1985 Skinner Chavez-Melo*

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Message

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

Father, we, your people come before you today and lay prostrate at your feet. We realize that what is done in the dark will surely come to light when left unacknowledged and unrepented. It will fester, not only polluting our spirit, mind, and body, but the spirits, minds, and bodies of the community around us.

We thank you for the members of your body that in love and with holy reverence, to you, reveal our faults and secret sins that lie within us. May you give us a spirit that is teachable, repentant, and open to receiving correction and edification from whatever source or disciple of Christ you choose to use.

We raise to you this day.....

May we never be too proud, too important, or too educated for correction. Pride comes before the fall, and we choose to stand this day facing head on every fault, failure, and frustration in our life. We will not shrink from the dirt of our lives.

We will not hide the pain. We will be a place of safety for other believers and, in doing so, will ourselves find safety.

Thank you, Father, for your mercy and grace that withholds the punishment that our sin deserved. Bless us, your body, may we continue to uphold one another in prayer and wisdom, speaking only that which the Holy Spirit gives us utterance to speak. In Jesus' name we come to you and offer the prayer our savior taught us to pray...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Almighty Giver of All Good Gifts: Grow in us the wisdom to know that all we have to give is in our hands only because you have given to us first. Remind us that you have called us in Christ to be gentle, patient, and loving – and at one with your children everywhere. May the gifts we have been given and the gifts we share reflect the debt of our gratitude for your many blessings. We pray this in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

***Departing Hymn UMH #575 “Onward, Christian Soldiers” (verses 1,3,5)**

Author: Sabine Baring-Gould (1864)

Publication Date: 1989

Composer: Arthur S. Sullivan (1871)

**1 Onward, Christian
soldiers, marching as to
war, With the cross of
Jesus going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
see his banner go!
[Refrain]**

**3 Like a mighty army
moves the church of
God; Brothers, we are
treading where the
saints have trod;
We are not divided;
all one body we,
One in hope and
doctrine,
one in charity.
[Refrain]**

**5 Onward, then, ye
people, join our happy
throng, Blend with ours
your voices in the
triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor,
unto Christ the King;
This thro' countless ages
men and angels sing.
[Refrain]**

Refrain:

**Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
going on before!**

COMMISSIONING

Sisters and brothers of Christ, go into all the world!
Go forth with forgiveness and grace.
Go forth with compassion and love.
We go as Christ's family
for all the world to see.