

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 – Announcement**

**Opening Meditation**

Paul says to us today – “and remember to what we were called.”

What is that calling? To be like God. To love like Christ. Our initial reaction is to recoil, to raise our hands in defeat and declare that this is something beyond the realm of possibility. How in the world can I act like God? How can I love like Christ? Yet it is our goal to become like Christ. That’s the name we have taken – Christian, little Christ. That’s the road we are on. But since we are striving to imitate God, then we also imitate God’s grace, with ourselves and certainly, with everyone else around us.

At the core of this Christ-like love, this God imitation, Together, we might have a chance to create the kind of community that behaves toward one another, views one another, values one another, as God does.

Come, let us who strive to be Christ-like worship or Lord today.

**A Call to Worship**

Come, let us put away all things that divide us and love one another.

**For we are members of one another (Eph. 4:25b)**

Come; let us not be divided from one another by gender, race, color, or status.

**For we are members of one another.**

Come; let us put away lies, anger, stealing, and corrupt words.

**For we are members of one another.**

Come; let us put away bitterness, wrath, clamor, and malice.

**For we are members of one another.**

Come; let us put away uncleanness, idolatry, and deception.

**For we are members of one another.**

Together let us speak truth, labor together, and do what is good and edifying to the Lord.

**Let us be imitators of God, walk as the children of God, and love as Christ first loved us.**

Come, let us be the people of God we are called to be.

**For we are saints, God’s chosen people, and members of one another.**

**PRAYER: BREAD OF LIFE**

Bread of life, you taught us to put away bitterness and anger, and with tenderhearted kindness to share the fruit of our labor with the needy. Strengthen us by your grace, that in communion with you, we may forgive one another and live in love as Christ loved us. Amen.

**Praise Hymn UMH #410. I Want a Principle Within**

*Public Domain*

**1. I want a principle within  
of watchful, godly fear,  
a sensibility of sin,  
a pain to feel it near.  
I want the first approach to feel  
of pride or wrong desire,  
to catch the wandering of my will,  
and quench the kindling fire.**

**2. From thee that I no more may stray,  
no more thy goodness grieve,  
grant me the filial awe, I pray,  
the tender conscience give.  
Quick as the apple of an eye,  
O God, my conscience make;  
awake my soul when sin is nigh,  
and keep it still awake.**

**3. Almighty God of truth and love,  
to me thy power impart;  
the mountain from my soul remove,  
the hardness from my heart.  
O may the least omission pain  
my reawakened soul,  
and drive me to that blood again,  
which makes the wounded whole.**

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

**New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not make room for the devil. 28 Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. 29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and

wrangling and slander, together with all malice, 32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

### **Ephesians 5:1-2**

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

### **Children's Message**

#### **Faith Hymn #2170 God Made from One Blood**

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**God made from one blood all the families of earth,  
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,  
companions who join us to walk through each stage  
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.**

**We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears  
For all of the families we've known through the years,  
the intimate networks on whom we depend  
of parent and partner and roommate and friend.**

**Give Lord, to each family in conflict and storm  
a sense of your wisdom and grace that transform  
sharp anger to insight which strengthens the heart  
and makes clear the place where rebuilding can start.**

**Then widen that wisdom and grace to include  
the races and viewpoints our families exclude  
till peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud  
of peace shared by all you have made from one blood.**

**\*Message\***

### **A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II, UMH pgs. 12-15**

#### **INVITATION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
In the name of Jesus  
**Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
You gave birth to your church,  
Delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
And make with us a new covenant  
By water and the Spirit.  
On the night in which he gave himself up for us  
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."  
When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
Gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and  
for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

### **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.  
Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: Our Father,

### **Sharing of the Elements**

#### **Joys/Concerns**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O Eternal One, whose message to us has always been that our relationship to you is  
inextricably related to how we treat our sisters and brothers, bend low your spirit this day  
and touch us with your power.

- Wean us from our tendency to nurture perceived slights and to put hot coals to our anger.
- Wean us from all tendencies to take advantage of others for personal gain.
- Wean us from negativity and from becoming bitter whether or not we think we are justified in our feelings.
- Wean us from the all too human and common tendency to gossip about others and to slander them in any way.
- Wean us from carrying malice in our hearts and from giving in to anything that would poison relationships with others.

Give us a consistent kindness and compassion for others. Keep us always tender hearted even when the world delivers difficult blows and setbacks to us. Teach us once again about your redeeming grace in order that we may learn, however slowly and however tentatively, how to forgive others. Teach us how to live abundantly into the future as victorious and expectant people, greeting each new day with eagerness and excitement. And indelibly remind us that we are among your forgiven and beloved community, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

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

Patient and Merciful God, we hear your call to live in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Our ears hear these words in our worship; our minds know what they mean; our hearts long to follow them; but we know that tomorrow we will be tempted to slip into the familiar life where we ourselves are at the center of our world and the needs we focus on are almost entirely our own. In our giving this day, help us strengthen our resolve to love as Christ loves us, for it is in the name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.  
(Ephesians 4:25-5:2)

### **Departing Hymn UMH #672 “God Be With You till We Meet Again” (verse 1)**

*Author: Jeremiah E. Rankin (1880)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Name: GOD BE WITH YOU*

*Composer: William G. Tomer (1880)*

1. God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

#### **Refrain:**

Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

#### **SENDING FORTH:**

Go out and imitate God, living in love.  
Put your hope in God's Word  
and let your own words be truthful and constructive.  
... In the name of Christ. Amen.