

*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**

Today we center our focus on being doers of the word. This isn't about works of righteousness, but about living out the salvation we have received by grace through faith.

In part, we are asking, "You've been saved or claimed by Christ, so what now? How will your life be different, look different, act different because of that primary relationship? What influence does faith have on your actions?"

In one sense, we are still the same – human, fallible, sinful. But in another sense, we are new creations, ready to embrace a new reality of living. Whether we've done this now for years or whether we are newly minted followers of Jesus, we continually ask ourselves how – "is it with our souls" and with our living these days.

Come all children of God let us worship Him this day.

**A Call to Worship**

We gather today hungering to be real. With genuine smiles and actions that match our hallelujahs. We are not content to just master the power handshake of strength.

We want also to master the partner handshake of mutual respect and mutual support.

**No more lip service; we want to be real!**

We yearn to rise above culture and prejudice to a mindset where foreigners and strangers are not held in contempt and all are invited to God's table.

**No more lip service; we want to be real!**

**A GENERAL PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you alone do wondrous things. Blessed be your glorious Name for ever; may your glory fill the whole earth. We know that every good endowment and every perfect gift comes down from you. By the power of your Holy Spirit, bring us forth in your truth that we may be the first fruits by the hearing and doing of your Word.**

**You have called us to care for the widows and orphans and any in their affliction. Go with us as we bring your hopeful and healing grace to all those committed to our care. May those in despair from any trouble or infirmity see the flowers of hope appear; may they enter into the time of singing their thanksgiving for your tender care.**

**O God anoint us with the oil of gladness and lead us to the ivory palaces of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Praise Hymn FWS #2142. Blessed Quietness. (Verses 1, 3, 5)**

*Author: Manie P. Ferguson  
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**1 Joys are flowing like a river,  
since the Comforter has come;  
Christ abides with us forever,  
makes the trusting heart a home.**

**Refrain:**

**Blessed quietness, holy quietness,  
what assurance in my soul,  
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,  
and the billows cease to roll.**

**3 Like the rain that falls from heaven,  
like the sunlight from the sky,  
so the Spirit, too, is given,  
coming on us from on high. [Refrain]**

**5 What a wonderful salvation,  
when we always see Christ's face,  
what a peaceful habitation,  
what a quiet resting place. [Refrain]**

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

**New Testament Reading..... James 1:17-27**

(New Revised Standard Version)

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like

those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. 26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

### **Children's Message**

#### **Faith Hymn # 152 I Sing the Almighty Power of God**

*I Sing the All Mighty Power of God Words Isaac Watts, 1715 Music: Trad. English melody; arr. By Ralph Baughan Williams, 1906 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved*

**I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky.**

**There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care;  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.**

**\*Message\***

**Joys/Concerns**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Father, we give thanks for all that you have done for us, for the gift of life—of growing and learning and experiencing the wonders of Your World For the gift of love—of sharing and caring, and seeing glimpses of You in the joy of friendship, the care of family, the love between parent and child;

Lord, we raise to you this day...

Lord, make us mindful of all your gifts, that we may be content and grateful, giving our love and lives to you all our days; Fill us with grateful hearts And remind us constantly of all You have given us that we may never take for granted Your love and Your generosity and Your goodness. Hear our prayers, Lord. As we come before you today asking for your guidance and in share in the prayer your loving Son taught us - Our Father...

## **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

Generous, giving God; we offer our gifts to you in gratitude for all the blessings you rain down upon us. Your sunshine warms us, your earth feeds us, and your word nourishes us. More than these gifts of money, we give ourselves—our time and our energy—that we might be doers of your word and not just hearers only. We pray this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen. (James 1:17-27)

## **Departing Hymn #557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

Words and music by Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.**

**When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.**

## **Commission & Benediction**

*(inspired by James 1:17-27)*

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Go out and be doers of the Word.  
Cleanse your hearts of all pollution,  
be quick to listen and learn,  
welcome the Word that God implants in you,  
and bring it to birth in acts of righteousness and compassion.

And may God pour grace upon you and bless you forever;  
May Christ Jesus reveal to you the truth of God's ways;  
and may the Holy Spirit fill your life with passion and love.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.