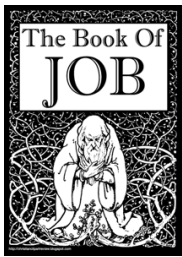


Prairieland Parish

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

For the next couple weeks, we will be walking our way through the book of Job. Now, the book of Job is usually placed among the wisdom literature of the Bible, and that is probably where it best fits. though you can find some of the most soaring poetry of the Bible in the pages of this book. But we also notice that the book of Job deals with some profoundly difficult questions in the life of faith, and it does so without easy answers or simplistic cliches. In fact, Job takes on those cliches with some painful truths about life in the real world. Let's be honest: Job isn't really for those for whom everything is great, and all their choices come up smelling like roses. It is a book for those who have questions, those who are struggling or suffering, or feeling like there is no one listening, no one out there at all.

So, how can we acknowledge the pain of the world in which we live? In our own neighborhoods? In our chosen mission fields? Around the world? What responses can we give to the suffering of the world around us? How can we be a caring presence beyond our own community of faith? What witness can we give to the world that God is a loving presence and not an uninvolved and INDESCRIBABLE entity?

Today we gather to worship as a people who are in this imperfect world and called to love the world as did the one who sent the Christ so that whosoever believes in him might have eternal life. And that truth supersedes all the hurt and pain we may experience as we journey to His Kingdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

We gather, in spite of many a conflict, many a doubt, within our souls.

We gather, longing for the breath of God's Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit and give us the courage to live as your disciples day by day. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving and generous God: Thank you for blessing those who are true to you. Make each of us, like Job, respectful toward you. Help us avoid evil and always want to do what is right to please you. Amen.

Praise Hymn #519 “Life Every Voice and Sing”

Author: James Weldon Johnson (1921)

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Notes: Now Public Domain

**1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

We Hear God’s Word

Old Testament Reading..... Job 1:1-22 (NRSV)

Job and His Family

1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. 2 There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. 3 He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. 4 His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another’s houses in turn, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings

according to the number of them all, for Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This is what Job always did.

Attack on Job's Character

6 One day the heavenly beings[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and the accuser[b] also came among them. 7 The Lord said to the accuser,[c] "Where have you come from?" The accuser[d] answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it." 8 The Lord said to the accuser,[e] "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." 9 Then the accuser[f] answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." 12 The Lord said to the accuser,[g] "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So the accuser[h] went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job Loses Property and Children

13 One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, 14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, 15 and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." 16 While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." 17 While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." 18 While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you."

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped.

21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.
This is the Word of God for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Moments

Faith Hymn #368 My Hope is Built

My Hope Is Built Words *Edward Mote 1834* **Music:** *William B Bradbury, 1863* © 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.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul give way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Meditation

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

Most merciful Father, draw near to those who are brokenhearted
and doubtful of your power and presence and in need of healing this morning.

As we embrace this season of autumn, may we not only be mesmerized by the changes
in the colors of the leaves, but we plead that you would heal the eyesight of the
colorblind.

Set the captives free; please give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a
mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

As time is filled with swift transitions and disheartening death,

Teach our hearts to find rest and comfort in you.

Give us strength to submit to your pruning – trusting that you cut away at our lives that
we might bear more fruit unto your glory.

May your Spirit blow afresh upon us in this season – moving us not simply to the right or to the left but forward in hope, peace, and justice.

Bless your church – that we may be the people you've created us to be and do the work that you have called us to do.

In the name of the one who gave his life, so that we might know God, abundance, and life eternal we come to you in prayer...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of grace and goodness, your blessings in our lives have been so abundant that when trials come, we become disoriented. Our needs have so often been met that when we're challenged in life, we wonder what's wrong. Why isn't the world perfectly aligned to meet our desires? This morning, we give our tithes and offerings, with hope that we might ground ourselves in gratitude for the blessings that we so easily come to take for granted. We pray for eyes to see clearly the bright mountains and the dark valleys, with grateful hearts for both. In Christ, we pray. Amen. ([Job 1:1, 2:1-10](#))

***Departing Hymn #129 Give to the Winds Thy Fears**

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**Give to the winds thy fears;
hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.**

**Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears thy way;
wait thou God's time; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.**

**Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command;
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,
how wise, how strong this hand.**

**Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath
thy love and guardian care.**

BENEDICTION

Written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website, <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>.

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.

As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.

As you have been received – give. As you have heard – proclaim.

And the blessing which you have received. from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.