

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

Today Jesus is asking us to keep a vision of the kin-dom before us always, to look beyond this moment—for good or for all—and see what God has in store for creation. We are not asked to ignore the moment; this isn't a call to pie-in-the-sky blindness. Instead, we live in this moment; we work in this moment, because we know what is coming; we know the promise and that gives us courage to keep going forward, even when it seems as if we are hitting a wall and not accomplishing anything.

We worship a God of peace when there is no peace. We act as brothers and sisters of one loving family, even when we are divided and filled with hate.

So, let us unite in worship today with the feelings of hope and the promise of the kin-dom in our heart. Let us pray with confidence that God is in control; let us sing that God has the whole world in hand; together we shall celebrate our trust in the coming new creation.

Let us celebrate as we worship, even when we also need to lament. Because the truth is that there is room for both in our faith.

A Call to Worship

Not one stone will be left on stone.

We worship our Rock and our Salvation

Beware that no one leads you astray

We worship our source of wisdom and truth

When all seems lost, this is just the beginning of the birth pangs.

We are here to worship the Word that endures and the hope that is born among us.

PRAYER

Our souls are poured out before you, O God, as we look for more in life than contentment with family, friends, and possessions. We thank you, dear Lord, for all of your blessings. Yet, in our souls, we long to be a blessing to others on your behalf.

As Abraham was a blessing to many nations,

As Hannah longed for something in her life
to offer back to God,
We long to make a difference in this world for you.

Open our eyes, good Lord,
to whatever you have already entrusted
for the good of your people.

Open our ears, Lord,
to intersections
between human need and heart's desire.

Open our hearts, Lord,
to recognize and nurture new gifts,
to consider unique possibilities,
dawning on the horizon.

**Our souls are poured out before you, O God.
Let your servants find favor in your sight. Amen.**

Praise Hymn #400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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**1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.**

**2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,**

**prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.**

We Hear God's Word
Gospel Reading..... Mark 13:1-8 (NRSV)

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" 2 Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!'[a] and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH #529 How Firm a Foundation

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**1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**5. “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”**

Meditation

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER/Lord’s Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts to You in prayer, trusting in Your help:

You have promised to be our keeper – to guard our going out and coming in from this time forth and forever more, and so we ask that You would be with and uphold those who are ill. Grant them healing according to Your will.

As we look forward to the day of Christ’s return in glory, help us by Your Holy Spirit to remember Your holy law, statutes, and just decrees and walk in them according to Your will and in this way show reverence for Your holy name which You have bestowed upon us in Baptism.

We ask Your blessing upon our national economy and upon our own jobs and financial well-being. Direct the unemployed to useful labor that will provide for their needs. Lead us to be generous to those who are suffering economic hardships. Sustain in us all a strong work ethic so that so that we might provide for our families, help those in need, and give generously for the work of the church. Help us to not grow weary in doing good.

Give us an ongoing awareness that this world and the things of this world will not endure forever, but there will come a Last Day. In the midst of natural disasters and socio-economic distress and political uncertainty help us to see these events as signs of the end so that day would not catch us unaware but that instead we would recognize that our redemption is drawing near.

Bless Your church on earth. Protect us from false teachers who would deceive by Your name and lead us astray. Help us to always hold fast to the firm foundation of Your Word. In the midst of uncertain times, grant us the mouth and the wisdom to bear witness to Your Son Jesus Christ and the redemption we have in Him.

Dear heavenly Father, whatever else You see that we need—whatever is for the good of our neighbor and redounds to Your glory—we pray that You would grant to us, Your children. We ask it Jesus’ name who taught us to pray: Our Father....

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Mighty God, Architect of the Universe; your work of creation and building is always before us! We give our gifts this day in hopes that we might be co-builders with you in the creation of your kingdom here on earth! May our gifts also reach others who are hurting, who feel disconnected from your love, that they too may join us in the stonework of kingdom-building, whose mortar is the sharing of Christ’s love with the world. In Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen. (Mark 13:1-8)

Departing Hymn #2186 Song of Hope

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**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

Refrain:

**Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

SENDING FORTH: Faithful God, we confess that there have been times when we have been tempted to trust in the ways of this world. Yet, we know you are faithful, even when we are faithless. Through the Holy Spirit please guide us, convict us, lead us in this week to come where you would have us to follow. Help our trust to remain steadfast in your love. Amen.

Postlude