

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.*

*May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***

**Prelude – Welcome – Announcements**

**Opening Meditation**

Our Gospel reading today is not an easy one. You see, Jesus did not hesitate to talk of the end times. And as a matter of fact, in addition to what we have from Jesus today, we also acknowledge that God called on John to give him a vision to write what we know as Revelation. The truth of the end times is not mere speculation, but has an intensely practical purpose to strengthen, reassure, and nerve believers as we face the impending woes.

Better that we know that something is coming that to be caught unaware. Right?

Jesus says they will deliver you up to councils and governors and kings for my sake and surely the day of standing before councils, governors and kings is not over, and never will be over as long as time in this world endures.

With these words of warning Jesus also give us his words of assurance as he says, 13:9-23 “Do not be anxious about what to say – With a faith in the living God, out of that relationship with Him will spring words of life for every circumstance.”

He let us that those who endure will be saved. So let us remember that the small decisions we make every day will lead up to the moment of testing which will give us the courage to stand in the moment it matters most. For today’s Scripture is a reminder if you will endure, you will know you are saved. Not by your works, but by His grace.

**A Call to Worship**

Lord we believed, we waited, and now we witness you bursting through the clouds with great splendor.

**Behold He comes, with great power and glory!**

The brightness of your light fills our eyes and illuminates our spirits.

**Behold He comes, with great power and glory!**

The sun and moon are darkened. We see the angels gathered from the ends of the earth to the heavens. These are the signs of the day we have long awaited.

**Behold He comes, with great power and glory!**

We give thanks, O God, for your great promise that you would strengthen us to the end that we may be blameless on this Great Day.

**We welcome you, O Christ, O Son of Man. Let your great power and glory shine on and through us.**

**Opening Prayer: GOD OF RESISTANCE**

**O God my Heavenly Father, please give us the courage to stand our ground for our faith and never compromise. Please strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit to give our testimony to those who doubt, persecute, or hate us. Use us to share the hope of your Son with those in darkness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Praise Hymn UMH #369 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”**

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.  
[Refrain]**

**Refrain:  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.  
[Refrain]**

**2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Mark 13:9-23 (NRSV)**

**Persecution Foretold**

9 “As for yourselves, beware, for they will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. 10 And the good news[a] must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit. 12 Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 13 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**The Desolating Sacrilege**

14 “But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; 15 the one on the housetop must not go down or enter to take anything from the house; 16 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. 17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! 18 Pray that it may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now and never will be. 20 And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. 21 And if anyone says to you at that time, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’[b] or ‘Look! There he is!’—do not believe it. 22 False messiahs[c] and false prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. 23 But be alert; I have already told you everything.

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

## Children's Message

### **Faith Hymn UMH 176 "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" (sing twice)**

*Author: Jack Hayford (1981)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: © 1981 Rocksmith Music c/o Trust Music Management.*

Majesty, worship His majesty  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise,  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne, unto His own  
His Anthem raise

So exalt, lift up on high, the name of Jesus  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King

Majesty, worship His majesty  
Jesus who died, now glorified  
King of all kings

**\*Meditation\***

### **Joys/Concerns**

#### **Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer**

Almighty, Eternal and Holy God, who is, who was, and who is to come, worthy are you to receive our praise and thanksgiving. Here in this holy place where you have promised to dwell among us, we gather to offer our praise to your holy Name. To you be glory and dominion forever.

Your revelation in Jesus Christ gives life to our bodies and souls. He has shown us the way to everlasting life and has promised to make us priests and a royal nation, but not in a place that we can see in the here-and-now. Still, we try to fit your ways into our expectations and then we grumble when you do not conform. Where we have doubted your wisdom and your truth, forgive us, good Lord.

Jesus was born to come into the world and bear witness to the truth. He has said that whoever is of the truth hears his voice. By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit equip us to bear witness to that same truth and so help others in hearing your voice.

On this day we await your coming in power and might to reclaim your Church and establish the reign of righteousness. In that same power we ask you to take into your care those whom we have named this day; relieve their suffering, end their captivity and restore their brokenness.

O God, our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, hear our prayers we ask Jesus' name who taught us to pray: Our Father....

## **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a fraction of what we owe you; but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service and for your glory. Amen.

## **Departing Hymn UMH #715. "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"**

*Author: Charles Wesley (1746)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Composer: John Darwall (1770)*

### **1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!**

**Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

### **2. Jesus the Savior reigns,**

**the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

### **3. His kingdom cannot fail;**

**he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of earth and hell  
are to our Jesus given.**

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice.**

### **4. Rejoice in glorious hope!**

**Jesus the Judge shall come,  
and take his servants up  
to their eternal home.**

**We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

## **SENDING FORTH: BE THAT**

### **A closing based on 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

Be that savory aroma that lets all know that they belong.

Be that soulful song that fills the room with vibrations that console and inspire.

Be that cool and calming breeze that reminds others to live in peace.

Be that firm ground that gives our children something solid to stand on, so that they can see farther.

And offer always to one another the delicious kind of words that add beauty and flavor to our world.