

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

We begin this week with an emphasis on giftedness. God’s love for us is shown in the work that we do and in the gifts that we use. We see God’s love in the way service builds relationships and then those relationships create community.

Corinth was called “Sin City” in its day. There was so much going on there and suffice it to say that it was hard to be a follower of Jesus in a city like that. It was hard to maintain purity, hard to stay out of the dog-eat-dog business of the surrounding community. It was so hard, in fact, that the ethos of the surrounding area leaked into the church.

Paul’s letters to the people of Corinth were written to address issues in the church.

Paul speaks about this subject: Diversity in unity. Individuality for the cause of oneness. I don’t believe Paul would suggest that the individual doesn’t matter or is somehow absorbed into the whole, but he would argue that love is the motivating power of giftedness.

Paul’s real goal is to say that in our diversity is our unity, in our individual giftedness is our communal strength.

Let us be open to the movement of the Spirit in individuals and in community as we gather today as the body of Christ at work in the world.

A Call to Worship

God knows each one of us personally and God loves each one of us.

Thanks be to God for such wondrous love!

Come this day into the presence of God.

We come with overflowing hearts!

Celebrate God’s mercy and compassion.

Praise be to God who offers us hope. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Awesome God, you knew us before we were born. You love us into life. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear your word for us. And, upon hearing the word,

may we be convinced of our call to ministry and mission through the church. Bless us with your presence and your powerful love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Praise Hymn UMH #593 "Here I am, Lord"

Author: Dan Schutte (1981) Copyright: © 1981 OCP Notes: Hymnal states text and tune copyright 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR, however, copyright has been resigned

[Verse 1]

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

[Verse 2]

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

[Verse 3]

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**New Revised Standard Version
Spiritual Gifts**

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts,[a] brothers and sisters,[b] I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH 519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Author: James Weldon Johnson (1921)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company, renewed

Notes: Now Public Domain

Composer: J. Rosamond Johnson (1921)

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**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.**

Meditation

Joys/Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Patient and Wise God, you have called this church into being to serve you in this world by helping others. We rejoice in the many ways we are able to be of help. We offer our prayers for each other, for those near and dear to us, for the situations of difficulty and strife in community and world. You hear our voices cry out and with your eternal compassion you respond in loving care to each of us. We gather here this day, meeting and greeting each other, celebrating fellowship and friendship, welcoming each other in your name. You remind us that you are with us always. What have we to fear? But we fear far too often the unknown tasks that lie ahead of us. We always want to be assured of the happy outcome of our efforts. Help us to trust your guidance and presence, Lord. Help us remember that there is no time in which we are out of your care. Enable us to be in serving ministry and mission with joy and confidence. Heal our wounds, bind up our bruises and broken spirits. Put us on a pathway of peace. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Who taught us to pray... Our Father....

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Generous God, we are reminded through scripture of the spiritual gifts that you give. We know that these are not for us to hold onto but are gifts for us to share – gifts from you meant for giving. As we offer our tithes and offerings, prompt us to commit more than dollars, but to see the gifts you have written on our hearts and to share generously of these as well! We pray these words in the name of Jesus, in whose way we follow, for whose love we are eternally grateful. Amen. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

Departing Hymn UMH #89 “Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee”

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

**4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.**

SENDING FORTH

And may God rejoice over you and call you "My Delight";
May Christ Jesus bring out the best in you, to his glory;
And may the Spirit equip you all with gifts for the common good.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ. Amen.