

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



“Doers of the Word”

Worship Series

Week 4

We have reached our 4th week of the “Doers of the Word” series and today James doesn’t like all this hanging around waiting for stuff to happen. He wants to get to work. James is a doer, a worker. And he says if we are going to fill ourselves up with something, if we are going to occupy ourselves with something, it might as well be the right things. There are the heavy things, says James, the things that weigh you down, the things that are never satisfying, never enough, the things that always make you want more, that measure your worth not by what you have but by what you don’t have, or by what someone else has. We can occupy ourselves with filling that bottomless pit in our souls that is never content but will use any means, will break any bond, will step on any toe to get what satisfies that gnawing hunger that won’t ever go away.

Or, James says, praise be to God, we can make peace; we can sow peace. We can work peace, says James – the peace that says I am not the center of the universe, even the universe of my own understanding and experience; the peace that says while I am loved and valued, I understand that best when I love and value others; when I act out of respect and hospitality; when I cede center stage so that I might applaud another; when I give aid and comfort; when I bind up and heal; when I mentor and teach; when I pour myself out in the name of God into lives of those I love around me. A commitment to a partnership with the Spirit and with the community of faith that will see us through whatever might come.

A Call to Worship *(inspired by James 3:13- 4:8)*

https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/ Reposted: https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/09/call-to-worship-james-3-4.html.

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God’s Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God’s bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God’s wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

Prayer

Lord, the storms of life are raging, and we need you to stand by us. The winds are trying to toss us to and fro, and we need you to stand by us. We want to be prosperous, like the tree planted by the streams of water the psalmist talked about. We, too, want to yield fruit, but life is threatening our productivity. Some of us are so stressed that our leaves are starting to wither. God, we need you to order our steps and give us

the strength to handle whatever is on the path that you have assigned. Show us your grace and your favor. In your Son Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn #617 I Come with Joy

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I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known;
we see and praise him here,
we see and praise him here.

Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

(New Revised Standard Version)

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for[a] those who make peace.

Friendship with the World

4 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet[b] something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

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

Children's Message

Faith Hymn #369 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

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

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.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
(Refrain)

Meditation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, we pray for your holy Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and

Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We come before you with our prayers as we unite in the prayer our loving Son taught us to pray...

Departing Hymn #2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

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I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. [Refrain]

A Sending inspired by Psalm 1

As we leave this place of sanctuary, let us go out into the world with the understanding that we are not to judge those who are not like us. We will no longer make distinctions like saints and sinners, but we will consider everyone blessed because we all are children of the Almighty God.