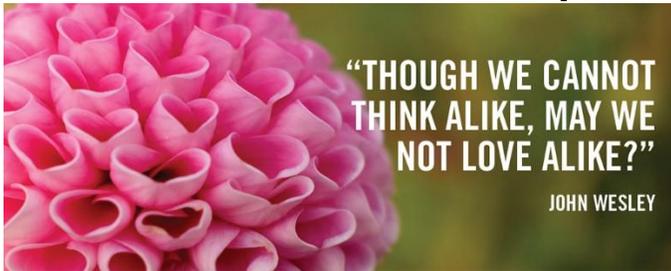


*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

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



**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

Our text this week includes Paul’s assertion that the church has everything it needs to be the church. Here these words:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,*

*1:5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind*

*1:6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you*

*1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1:9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

That’s an amazing and powerful statement of faith. Too often, we spend time wishing – wishing we had more people or more resources or more volunteers or more activity. But what if, instead, we were simply thankful? Let’s be thankful for the gifts we have, for the people we have, for how they give of themselves and their resources and give thanks for the mission and witness that we are able to do week by week. Of course, we want to encourage more. But not because we are lacking. No, we encourage more because we don’t want anyone to miss out on the joy of being the body of Christ, the joy of serving, the joy of worship. We come from an attitude of abundance and not scarcity.

This is also Human Relations Sunday, we remember the call of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this weekend. His witness and call remind us that the work of antiracism and civil rights is not yet done, and we need to be engaged in the transforming work of the gospel, even in our neighborhoods. Even here, we come not from fear or from lack, but from an abundance of grace that calls us into action to be a part of the creation of

beloved community in which everyone is welcome, and everyone is honored. So, today as we gather, let us do so with a sense of celebration in our heart for the church we are and we are becoming.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

(based on Psalm 40)

I waited patiently for GOD; who turned to me and heard my cry,  
who lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;  
and set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

**We sing a new song!**

**Our mouths are full of the praise of God.**

Blessed are we when we make the Lord our trust;  
when we do not turn aside to false gods.

**We sing of all your many wonders, O God,  
too many to declare them all.**

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but our ears you have pierced and a body you have prepared for us.

**We sing, "Here I am, I have come—  
I desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is in my heart."**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(inspired by Isaiah 49, Psalm 40, 1 Corinthians 1)

**Faithful God, you call us to be saints,  
but we are more comfortable with the role of sinner;  
you call us to be your servants,  
but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work;  
you put a new song of praise in our mouths,  
but we stumble on unfamiliar words;  
you show us the work to be tackled,  
but we turn away defiant,  
insisting we have more important things to do.**

**Put your song on our lips and in our hearts,  
and remind us of the joy that awaits us  
when we put our trust in you.  
Guide us into the light  
of your unwavering, never-ending,  
and grace-filled love. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

(inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

God is faithful and ever-present.

The God who knew us before our birth  
loves us still and strengthens us,  
that we will one day be blameless.  
Through the gift of Jesus Christ,  
God offers forgiveness, grace, and mercy.  
Enter into the light!

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #593 "Here I Am Lord"**

Author: Dan Schutte (1981)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1981 OCP

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and 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?  
Who 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.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They run 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?**

**Chorus**

**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?**

**Chorus**

***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... John 1:29-42**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***The Lamb of God***

*29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." [a]*

## **The First Disciples of Jesus**

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed[b]). 42 He brought Simon[c] to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas"[d] (which is translated Peter[e]).

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

## **Children's Sermon**

### **FAITH HYMN FWS #2113 "Lamb of God"**

Author: Twila Paris

Publication Date: 2001

Copyright: © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

#### **Verse 1**

**Your only Son no sin to hide  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God**

#### **Chorus**

**Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God  
I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God**

#### **Verse 2**

**Your gift of love they crucified  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died  
The humble King they named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God**

#### **Chorus**

#### **Verse 3**

**I was so lost I should have died  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God**

#### **Chorus**

**"Message"**

## Pastoral Prayer

Eternal God,

Lover of our souls, we come to you this morning hungering for something from you that will change the rest of our lives. We come hungering for honesty instead of corruption; for generosity instead of greed; we come hungering for integrity instead of intrigue. We come hungering for our neighbors to be fed and for all to have enough honest work to provide for the basic needs of their families. We come this morning hungering for righteousness to flow like rainwater and for the justice like an ever-flowing stream described by the prophets.

We come hungering and we come listening for your words to us, describing how we can participate in your great work of re-creation. We come listening for ways that we can become part of the solution and not part of the problem. We come listening in fear and trembling, praying that we will have the courage to respond and act if we hear a clear word of instruction from you.

Speak, Lord, For your children are listening...

(Silence)

We need you, and we need your help.

Help us, we pray.

Help our nation, we pray.

Help our world, we pray.– in the name of the servant Christ, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

**Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology**

**(Wykoff only)**

### Offertory Prayer

*Good and generous God, we bring our gifts to you this day and pray you might dedicate them to your work. We needed to be reminded by the apostle Paul that we have all that we need, whatever our circumstances. Renew us, loving God, and give us a new day and another chance. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:1-9)*

**Departing Hymn UMH #402**

**“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”**

Copyright: Public Domain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MXbG8JO1qI>

**1 Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**2 Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**3 Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

### **Benediction**

Let us go from here today secure in the knowledge that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. We go into our world surrounded by the blessing of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the equipping of the Spirit, to live and work as disciples who make disciples for the transformation of the world. Amen.

### **\*POSTLUDE**