
*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/Joys & Concerns

Last week we celebrated our abundance, this week we give thanks for our relationships.

We celebrate the life of the community, in fellowship, in learning together and serving together. We rejoice in our reach, which is always greater together than separately. There is an African proverb that says if you want to go fast go alone; but if you want to go far, then go together.

We are in this for the long haul, all the way to the kin-dom of God. And along the way, we live by kin-dom rules, we show kin-dom values, we rejoice in kin-dom priorities, which sometimes means we set aside our personal preferences for the good of the whole. But more often than not, we realize that our personal good is fulfilled by the good of the whole community.

So, let us sing of the church and the joy that we have in communion and fellowship. Let us pray for the healing of broken relationships and misunderstandings so that our witness can be stronger. Let us give thanks for our leaders and teachers and pillars who have sacrificed much to help us be the church we are.

And let us continue to look for ways to be open - to invite - and include those who are not yet a part of the fellowship of the church.

We live hand in hand inside but with an outward focus and hope. Because we are making disciples of Jesus Christ, and there is always room for more.

For Paul words to the people of Corinth are words for us today.
1:10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

Come, let us worship our Lord...

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of all creation makes us one in the flesh.

Let us join hearts and voices in praise.

In Jesus Christ, we are made one in the Spirit.

Let us be united in truth through the same one Spirit.

We practice our faith in many different ways.

Yet we confess one Lord Jesus Christ.

We render different forms of ministry.

Yet our calling is one because Christ is undivided.

Rejoice, people of God: The Risen Christ is among us, calling us together at his one Table.

Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world: forgive us the sins which tear us apart; give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE FWS #2236 "Gather Us In"**

Author: Marty Haugen

Publication Date: 2001

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**Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 4:12-23
New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

12 Now when Jesus[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

*15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."*

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [b]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

23 Jesus[c] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Children's Sermon

FAITH HYMN UMH #348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" (verse 1 & 4)

Author: Will L. Thompson (1880)

Publication Date: 1989

**1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!**

**4 O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]**

“Message”

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of unity,

We come before you dismayed at our own divisions. We have struggled as your church to live in unity; but we are divided – along the fault lines of our societies. The ruptures in our families, among friends, among denominations, among nations are wide and deep. When we attempt to get on the same page, we build taller walls and dig deeper trenches. God, help us! We know that Christ is not divided. We know that it is your baptism to which we have been called. It is your service to which we are compelled. You have called us to proclaim the gospel, but we even fight about what that is. Help us, God! Help us give up our power and our privileges. Help us to yield for the sake and cause of the cross of Jesus. Help us to want the unity you share, for you are one; in you, there is no division. Help us to embrace and to live the foolishness of a life emptied of power and given to service, in the likeness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to walk in salvation – in the name of the servant Christ, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology (Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, as we present our offerings in worship, we know we come from a world that is tearing itself apart due to division. We need to be reminded that you desire unity and one mind from your children –We dedicate not just our gifts but our minds to the work of your unifying love. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

Departing Hymn UMH #583 “Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)”

Author: Cesareo Gabaraín (1979)

Translator: Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon

Translator: Skinner Chávez-Melo

Publication Date: 1989

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Notes: Hymnal states text copyrighted 1979 Ediciones Paulinas and trans. copyrighted 1989 The United Methodist House, however, copyright has been reassigned, admin. by OCP

**You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.**

**You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
my witnesses where'er you go.**

Chorus:

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever,
till the end of the world."**

**You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
sending sparkles of hop, faith, and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole word
through valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friend that I chose for myself,
the work that I want to proclaim/
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
where justice and truth always reign.**

Chorus

**You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover its might;
may your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God.**

Chorus

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**