

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

Once again today, we are called to celebrate our faith and to embrace ways of living out that faith that might grow and change but, in the end, will remain true to the words and witness of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah talks to us today about distractions and the mentor to the young Timothy focuses our attention on persistent. Both bring us to the importance of worship and questions of why?

Why do we do what we do? Why do we lose ourselves in music so that the Spirit might work into our minds and hearts and bodies? Why do we read from this ancient text week after week? How does this book written in a different context by different people over a long period of time have anything to say to us today and the world in which we live now?

The purpose behind the attention to the “why” of worship is to maintain a focus. Distractions abound, and our text draws attention to an inclination to wander off in search of something new to a distracted mind or itching ears. Come, let us center ourselves in the words of the great prophet Jeremiah and Gods words of purpose for his beloved children:

**Jeremiah 31:27-34 (NRSV)
Individual Retribution**

27 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. 28 And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. 29 In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

30 But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

A New Covenant

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here to worship seeking a focus for our being.

God calls us to worship the Word made flesh.

We gather here to worship, though we feel drawn in too many directions, overwhelmed with too many tasks, chasing after something we can't quite name.

God calls us to worship leaning into the Spirit of Truth

We gather here to worship, wondering and hoping, doubting and uncertain, frustrated and afraid. But we are here.

God calls us to worship with our whole selves. We are here; let us worship with joy.

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3–4)

**Lord, your words are sweet to the taste,
sweeter than honey;
let them be our daily meditation and our study.
Give us ears to hear,
for we marvel at your instruction.
Train us in righteousness,
grant us patience and persistence,
and equip us for every good work.
Inspire our faith,
and give us voices to proclaim your message.
Guide our feet,
keep us from every false way,
for you alone speak the words of life. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

Author: Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

Copyright: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Notes: Now Public Domain.

Tune Information

Composer: William M. Runyan (1923)

Copyright: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-eTTNqTc6s>

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

We Hear God’s Word

New Testament Reading..... 2 Timothy

3:14-4:5

New Revised Standard Version

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is[a] useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Children’s Sermon

HYMN FWS #2004 “Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

Author: Thomas H. Troeger

Publication Date: 2003

Copyright: © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Tune Information

Composer: Rowland H. Prichard

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DW_TFWS_2004_Prais
e the Source of Faith :

**Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray.**

**God of wisdom we acknowledge
that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge
only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation
lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation
and the pulse of life are found.**

**May our faith redeem the blunder
of believing that our thought
has displaced the grounds for wonder
which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error
which unthinking faith can breed
lest we justify some terror
with an antiquated creed.**

**As two currents in a river
fight each other's undertow,
till converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow,
blend, O God, our faith and learning
till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning
praise and thanks to you, the Source.**

"Message"

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Merciful God, how wonderful is your law, how gracious are your ways. In your words are sweetness and in your path is life. Coming as children of your own choosing, we offer our praise to your holy Name and we lift our thanksgivings to your glory.

Your promises are true. You have promised us a new way of living wherein your covenant is written in our hearts. But our hearts turn away from you. We fall in love with the concerns of this world. We turn inward to our own desires and then we complain when you do not respond as quickly as we might wish. We abandon you when we give up on prayer, and then wonder why we have lost heart. We are selfish, and we do not wish to learn. O Lord, forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more. Turn us back to you, the Source of our life.

Your life-giving Spirit has been breathed into the sacred writings that instruct us for salvation through faith. Take away the itching in our ears and ground us in your word that we might proclaim the truth to an unbelieving world, bringing it back to the truth.

You employ many means to bring health and well-being to your people. Although your ways are not always our ways, we trust that you will make your people whole. This day there are many who are discouraged and have lost heart because of their suffering. Wrap them in your loving arms and give them comfort. If their affliction is not removed in this life, then grant them strength to endure. Give to all in distress your peace.

Write your words in our hearts and answers what we ask, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us...Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

(Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, as we offer our gifts to you this day, we pray that, in our giving, we may be reconnected to the reason why we follow and the reason why we give. In Christ, we pray, our guiding light. Amen. (2 Timothy 3:14-4:5)

Departing Hymn UMH #600 "Wonderful Words of Life"

Author: Philip P. Bliss (1874)

Publication Date: 1989

Composer: Philip P. Bliss (1874)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXqDwIRD1JM>

**1. Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty
teach me faith and duty.**

Refrain:

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.**

**2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
all so freely given,
wooing us to heaven.
(Refrain)**

**3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever.
(Refrain)**

Benediction

May the living word of the Lord dwell with you.
May it live through you.
May it fill your thoughts and deeds.
May it fill your mouth with God's message of love.
May it sustain you in good times and bad.
May it equip you for a ministry of peace and hope!

***POSTLUDE**