

Racine UMC - Sumner Center – Wykoff UMC

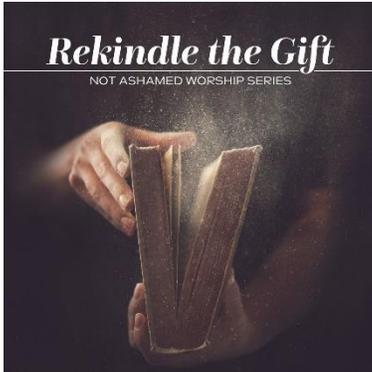
As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

The letters preserved in the New Testament that were written to the young Timothy are filled with guidance, grace, knowledge and inspiration. For this young disciple was taught by a great mentor. Now we can debate if Paul was the author of these letters to Timothy or if Timothy was the apprentice of another disciple, but I don't believe that the messenger of Timothy's letters is as important as the message. In today's reading the mentor speaks of grace—the empowering presence of the Spirit and the redeeming love of Christ. It is a message we today can take into our own hearts. It is the reminder of that which we claim when we first say yes, when we first accept the embrace of Jesus through the arms of the church. We are told to go back and remember who you were and who you are. Go back and remember that you've been loved from the beginning, whether you knew it or not. We all need this blessing; we stand under this call as followers of Jesus Christ. The author challenges us to live a life of faith, especially as a leader or proclaimer or witness to that faith every day of our lives. Every act of worship in the life of the church is a call to service and an invitation to be a leader in kingdom-building as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Hear these words from 2 Timothy 1:1-14:

Salutation

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

3 I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a

faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,[a] 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ,[b] who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher,[c] 12 and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard the deposit I have entrusted to him.[d] 13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Like Timothy, who is reminded of how his mother and grandmother were instrumental in shaping his faith, today as we gather let us rekindle the gift and take this time to acknowledge those who have brought us to this place, to this path, to the work of discipleship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather, as God's people, bringing our fears and pain,
knowing that when our spirits have grown cold,

God rekindles the gift of faith in us.

We gather, as God's people,
hanging our broken hearts on the branches of the tree of life.
knowing that while friends may turn against us,

God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.

We gather, as God's people, hungering for healing and hope,
knowing that even when life is no picnic,

God prepares a feast for us.

OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of God, enlighten our hearts to the reality of divine presence in our midst.

Let our worship be pleasing in your sight, so that our gathering is an experience of deep communion with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, this is our prayer. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #354 "I Surrender All"

Author: J. W. Van Deventer (1896)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: W. S. Weeden (1896)

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/354.mp3>

**1. All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;**

**I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.**

Refrain:

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

**2. All to Jesus I surrender;
humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken;
take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]**

**3. All to Jesus I surrender;
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit,
truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]**

**4. All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power;
let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]**

**5. All to Jesus I surrender;
now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]**

We Hear God's Word

**New Testament Reading..... Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
New Revised Standard Version**

The Meaning of Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance[a] of things hoped for, the conviction[b] of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith[c] our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.[d]

The Faith of Abraham

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered[a] him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, For the People of God, **Thanks Be to God!**

Faith Hymn UMH #357 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" (verses 1,3,5)

Author: Charlotte Elliott (1835)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: WOODWORTH

Composer: William B. Bradbury (1849)

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/357.mp3>

**1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Meditation

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

INVITATION

(Pastor stands behind the Lord's table.)

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.
And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen.

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of Redemption, You call us to wash ourselves clean, so that our transgressions fall away. May we cease doing evil, learn to do good, and seek justice.
You call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.
May we not forget these responsibilities you've set before us.
We are grateful for the reminder from the prophet Isaiah that,
though our sins are like scarlet, you'll make us like snow!
Even though they are red like crimson, you make them like wool!
May we be obedient and willing followers, pleasing unto you.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) (Wykoff church only)

Offertory Prayer

God of love and grace, we bring our offerings this day and ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Your prophet Isaiah reminds us that offering money or possessions is not enough. Isaiah proclaims to the Israelites that unless their offerings are accompanied by a wiliness to "learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," the offerings are futile. Open our ears to hear what pleases you and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***Departing Hymn UMH #666 "Shalom To You"**

Author: Elise S. Eslinger (1980)
Publication Date: 1989

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Tune Information

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1989)

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3TqB5YQ4_4

**Shalom to you now, shalom,
my friends, May God's full mercies
bless you, my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom**

BENEDICTION

By: Richard Halverson

Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
God has a purpose in your being right where you are.
Christ, who indwells you by the power of his Spirit,
wants to do something in and through you.
Believe this and go in his grace, his love, his power.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Postlude