

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

This week, we're about giving our all. About living full out, about being alive the way Jesus describes living when He said: "I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NRSV). This is what the life of faith offers; this is the example that Paul presents with his full-out life, embracing all that came to him, the good and the bad.

This is not to say that we present a life that ends up in jail like Paul. For most of us, that isn't really the result of living a full-bore life of faith, although there are those who invite us to get into "good trouble." The abundant life brings change, challenges status quo, works for justice and equality, threatens power and privilege. The life poured out in service draws attention.

Now living this Christian life might wear us out, but it comes with a promise. The promise that the Lord will stand by us in strength". We who are called to give everything find that there is more of everything than we knew, because of the one who stands by us. We are sent with a challenge, but more powerfully, we are sent with a promise.

Come let us find our center in the words written to the young minister Timothy by his aging mentor:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (NRSV)

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship because the Lord stood by us on difficult days.

Even when we weren't aware and felt alone.

We worship because the Lord gives strength.

Even when we feel so weak.

We worship because we have been rescued again and again.

Even when we are afraid that we have lost.

Come and worship the God **who stands with us in our darkest days and promises to be with us to the end.**

We will worship in hope, seeking eyes to see and hearts to believe in God with us.

OPENING PRAYER (inspired by Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8)

**At the starting line of this day,
we call on your name, God of grace.**

**As we run the race you have set before us,
help us to keep our eyes on your goals, not our own.**

When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage.

When we are fleet-footed, let us give you the glory.

**Keep us from wanting to win at other's expense
or to count ourselves better than those at our side.**

All runners are your children.

**In the race You imagine,
each one is a winner. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#393 "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me"**

Author: Daniel Iverson (1926, adapt.)

Publication Date: 1989

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Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Luke 18:9-14

New Revised Standard Version

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' 13 But the tax

collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

Children's Sermon

HYMN UMH #352 "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord"

Arranger: William Farley Smith (1986)

Meter: Irr.

Copyright: Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Refrain:

**It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.**

**1 Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.**

**Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]**

**2 Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.**

**Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]**

**3 Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.**

**Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]**

"Message"

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

(inspired by 2 Timothy 4: 6-8 and Hebrews 12: 1-3)

Lord, thank you so much for your faithfulness to us in the difficult times.
Help each of us to run with perseverance
the race that you set before us
and to finish that race well with your help.
Help us to keep the faith
and the teaching that you have entrusted to us
and pass it on faithfully to those in the next generation
who can teach others also.
We know you will be with us to the end.

We know that your grace is sufficient.
In Jesus' name, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

(Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

God of the universe, In our giving to you this day, may you bless us so that we might better keep our eyes focused on you, that one day we might be able to echo your servant Paul as he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. We pray this in the name of Jesus who loved us even to the cross! Amen (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

Departing Hymn UMH #671 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Author: John Fawcett (1773)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: SICILIAN MARINERS

**1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.**

**2. Thanks we give and adoration
for thy gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.**

Benediction

Our gathered worship has ended, but our race goes on. The faith we celebrate in here continues to be the faith we keep out there. As you have poured yourself out in worship – in song and in prayer, in fellowship and in unity – now may we go to pour ourselves out in service to the world God so loves. Let the church be the witness that God is at work in the world. Go with God. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**