

*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



Opening Meditation

There is no entry fee to the kin-dom. Your net worth has nothing to do with your eternal value. This is our proclamation for today. This is our invitation to all the people of God. You were chosen not for your ability to earn, but because you are loved. And because you are loved, you have an ever-increasing capacity to love in return. That’s what expands; that’s what multiplies as we continue our journey to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And then we find ourselves making disciples, even as we are being made disciples.

This is a vital message today. In an era of division and hatred based on many external factors, the proclamation that every person has an inherent worth is radical and life changing, world changing.

Our gospel reading today shares the parable of the talents. Let us not hear this as a parable about those who have much but let us hear it say “this is how the world works, not how we work. Or perhaps, those who have the capacity to give will have even more opportunities to give, and those who choose not to give will lose those opportunities.” You see, however we interpret this this parable, let us see it as a point of division. Let it not affirm the cultural understanding that only the wealthy are blessed in this life.

In every gospel message, there is a call. Today we hear a call to joy, not to shame or to heaviness, call to the possibilities of transformation and growth. Come let us find our way to more— more love, more joy, more fellowship, and connection. Let us join together in our call to worship..

A Call to Worship

L: Come! Share the joy of the Lord!

P: Delight in God’s goodness!

L: Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared.

P: Lord, we thank you for these gifts!

L: Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

P: Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us. Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

God, our kind and loving Father,
you no longer call us servants but friends.
There is so much you have entrusted to us,
even the future of your kingdom of justice and love.
Give us the grace to work out with you
the growth of mercy and goodness in this world,
to be united with all Christians
and with all who seek you with a sincere heart
in bringing reconciliation and joy to everyone.
Let us go together the way to you,
our living and loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #206 "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light"

Author: Kathleen Thomerson (1966)

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**1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain:

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]**

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Talents

14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five

more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH#399 "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Author: Frances R. Havergal (1873)

Composer: Louis J. F. Hérold (1839)

Arranger: George Kingsley (1839)

**1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Message

Sharing of Our Joys & Concerns Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
For all people in their daily life and work;
for our families, friends and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, our country, and the world;
for all who work for justice, freedom and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
for those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy.
For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
for all who proclaim the gospel, and for all seek the truth.
For the leaders in the church universal
And for leaders in our United Methodist Church,
for all who serve God in the church.
For our own needs, and for others for whom you have called us to pray.
(share any names of those raised up during joys and concerns)
Hear us, Lord
for your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of life.

We exalt you, O God our king;
and praise your name for ever and ever.

In Christ you have called us to eternal glory;
to you be praise as we come to you this day in voice and prayer and unite saying: Our
Father...

Offertory/Doxology/ Offertory Prayer

*Generous God, your good gifts to us are too many to name! We have been so blessed,
not so that we might hide away these blessings, but to use them so that the blessings
might be multiplied. As we give from our blessing stockpile, help it to multiply and grow.
May our gifts empower multiple acts of mercy and compassion, and may your love pour
over this world like a flood. If we have buried these gracious blessing, may today be the
day we dig them up and put them to work, so that we might be seen as your faithful
servants! Amen. (Matthew 25:14-30)*

Departing Hymn UMH # 706 "Soon and Very Soon"

Author: Andraé Crouch (1978)

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**1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

SENDING FORTH

Go in peace; love and care for one another in Christ's name,
and may God bless you with every gift needful for His work, Amen.

Postlude