

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 3, 2022

Racine UMC & Sumner Center UMC

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

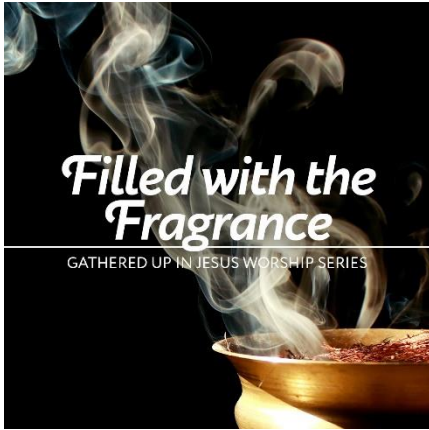
May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



**“Gathered up in Jesus”
Worship Series**

Week 5

We who have been gathered up in Jesus now pour ourselves out for him. We make of ourselves an offering that is pleasing to both God and to those around us. Can we make the world a better place, a more beautiful and sweet-smelling place because we live a life of praise and service? We could examine the impact we have on the world by making it a better place because of how we live in community. We could consider our influence on human community and how we enhance relationships and encourage others because of our fundamental belief in the image of God inherent in every created being. Our life of praise and witness to the glory of God has an effect; it brings a fragrance into all that we do.

In John’s Gospel reading today, he describes the event of anointing Jesus by saying the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. Jesus points out, to all of them and to us as well, that no gift is wasteful when it is given in love, no matter how extravagant. No act of service can be demeaning when it is given in love, no matter how humble.

What we should carry in our hearts is that there will be times in our lives when we will know his will and feel his presence and other times, we will wonder what he would have us do and wonder why he seems so far from us. But that no matter what, we should give and serve out of love, with extravagance because - Our life of praise and witness to the glory of God has an effect; it brings a fragrance into all that we do.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13)

Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies,

<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Luke+4%3A1-13>

Come to Jesus this day. Bring with you all the pain that you feel.

Lord, bring to us healing and hope

Come to Jesus this day. Bring with you your confusion and doubts.

Lord, bring to us restoration and renewal of life

Come to Jesus this day and he will make something beautiful happen in your life.

OPENING PRAYER

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ’s name, we pray. AMEN.

Praise Hymn #394 “Something Beautiful, Something Good” (Sing twice)

Author: Gloria Gaither (1971)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1971 William J. Gaither

Composer: William J. Gaither (1971)

Copyright: © 1971 William J. Gaither

Something beautiful, something good
All my confusion He understood
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife
But he made something beautiful of my life

We Hear God’s Word

Gospel Reading..... John 12:1-8

New Revised Standard Version

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii[b] and the money given to the poor?” 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it[c] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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

Children’s Moments

Faith Hymn #374 "Standing on the Promises"

Author: Russell Kelso Carter (1886)

Copyright: Public Domain

**1 Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain:

**Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**3 Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

**4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]**

Meditation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient Lord, we find it easy to blame others and other circumstances for the things which happen in our lives. We hear the words "if only" and wonder why things didn't happen differently for us. Too often we want you to be a "magic" presence which will, with the wave of a wand, cure our ills, give us success and happiness; but we don't necessarily want to take responsibility for our attitudes and actions. Life is. Things happen which we didn't plan for and events swirl around us over which we have no control. But to place blame and not to find ways in which we can work through the situations is detrimental to everyone, especially ourselves.

Forgive us when we are so busy placing blame that we don't recognize your presence and love for us. Free us from placing our own desires first and foremost. Help us to look at the many ways in which you are working in the world for peace and justice and enable us to be part of that ministry. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God's healing love. Accept this free gift, for it is given for you through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR LENT

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 brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth, you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.
When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.
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.
Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,

that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord God, how extravagant your love for us is! You continually pour upon us blessing upon blessing - in the lives of people near and dear to us, in the beauty of creation, in the skills and abilities you have given to us.

There is so much for which we are thankful. Yet in the midst of this thankfulness, there lurks the demons of demand and confusion.

We want you to be in control of taking care of all the things that threaten us.

We want you to prevent us from facing times of confusion and doubt.

Actually, we want to have a more complete faith. Like Judas, who misunderstood Jesus' intention, we wonder about the anointing of Jesus - about the perceived waste of materials. How hard it is for us to see that we need to take some time to honor and praise Christ instead of continually asking for Christ to do things for us.

We have a lot to learn. Lord, teach us! Open our hard hearts to the healing words you have for us. Give us patience and persistence in our service to you. And when we stumble and thrash around faithlessly, bring us back to your presence; that we may find healing and hope. In Jesus' name, we come to you in prayer...

***Departing Hymn #170 "O How I Love Jesus"**

Author (refrain): Anonymous

Author: Frederick Whitfield

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**1 There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.**

Refrain:

**O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

**2 It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

**3 It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Go in peace and may God's peace go with you. Bring hope and healing to all whom you meet. AMEN.

Postlude