

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**

If Elisha wants us to listen, Amos wants us to look.

Amos 7:7-8

7:7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. 7:8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;

God's repeated word to Amos was, "What do you see?" It was an invitation to pay attention, to take off the rose-colored glasses and really see what was before him. How often do we really pay attention to the world around us? Whether we are going to work, or to school; whether we are running our errands or even trying to get in some exercise, do we really look around us to see the state of the world, our nation, or our neighborhood? What do you see?

Now, it's true that God didn't ask Amos to take a stroll around his neighborhood and report what he saw. No, there was a specific vision. God did something, set up something, and asked Amos to see it and interpret it. So, our seeing is a deeper seeing. Where have you seen the handiwork of God? Maybe it was as obvious as a plumbline set up next to the wall of the city, but more likely not. When Jesus talked about God at work, he talked about seeds planted in the ground and yeast hidden in the dough and pearls tucked away somewhere. We have to look harder and look deeper. We have to interpret as we see, understand as we look.

The questions we must ponder today is, "Are we bold enough to proclaim to a broken world, a bitter, anger-driven world, that God has set a plumbline in our midst?" Are we able to endure the attacks that come to us when we speak truth to power? Are we able to answer God's call to engage the prophetic work, even if that work is done from the margins? May God guide us as we move forward onto his righteous paths.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, what do you see?

**We see that God has set a path before us.**

What else do you see?

**We see that God is among us.**

And what else do you see?

**We see that God calls us to be prophets**

**Together, we will speak God's truth to injustice.**

**AMEN.**

## GENERAL PRAYER

**God of Prophets, You call all of us to be prophets. Like shepherds with their sheep, you guide us in the direction you wish us to go. You make clear the path of goodness and righteousness. You set a plumbline for us to follow, an example guiding us toward the Way. May we be aware of your presence in our hearts today, as we use this time to prepare us for the journey to come. Amen.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #451 "Be Thou My Vision" (3 verses)**

*Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1905)*

*Versifier: Eleanor H. Hull (1912, alt.)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: It. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House*

*Tune Information*

*Name: SLANE*

*Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1963)*

*Copyright: Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press*

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/SLANE1.mp3>

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## ***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... Luke 10:25-37**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***The Parable of the Good Samaritan***

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.[a] "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FAITH HYMN UMH #395 "Take Time to Be Holy"

Author: William D. Longstaff (ca. 1882)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: Geoge C. Stebbins (1890)

[\(Dropbox folder – Music from Discipleship website\)](#)

1. Take time to be holy,  
speak oft with thy Lord;  
abide in him always,  
and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children,  
help those who are weak,  
forgetting in nothing  
his blessing to seek.

2. Take time to be holy,  
the world rushes on;  
spend much time in secret  
with Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus,  
like him thou shalt be;  
thy friends in thy conduct  
his likeness shall see.

3. Take time to be holy,  
let him be thy guide,  
and run not before him,  
whatever betide.  
In joy or in sorrow,  
still follow the Lord,  
and, looking to Jesus,  
still trust in his word.

4. Take time to be holy,  
be calm in thy soul,  
each thought and each motive  
beneath his control.  
Thus led by his spirit  
to fountains of love,  
thou soon shalt be fitted  
for service above.

## “Message”

### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of Mercy,  
We confess today that we, like the prophet Amos,  
struggle to accept our call to be prophetic.  
We have infinite excuses for why you shouldn't use us.  
We are afraid to speak truth to power,  
to speak of humility to egotistical systems.  
Hiding behind our occupational identities,  
we deny that we are all called to share the good news.  
When we feel ill-prepared, grant us assurance.  
When we feel unworthy, remind us of the image of God  
that resides in each of us.  
When we struggle to know what words to speak, what moves to make,  
keep us in sync with your Holy Spirit, letting you guide all we do.  
Give us the courage to be prophets in a world where more grace,  
Peace, and love are desperately needed.  
Ask we have gathered in your name today let us join our voices  
together, praying for the coming of your kingdom,  
using the words that Jesus taught us.  
Our Father...

### Departing Hymn UMH #664 “Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

*Author: Omer Westendorf (1964)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.*

*Tune Information*

*Harmonizer: Leland Sateren (1972)*

*Copyright: Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/133.mp3>

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us,  
and love shall unite us  
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,**

**embracing God's children, of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

### **Benediction**

Go in peace and confidence,  
knowing that the love of God, our Father,  
the grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
goes with us.

**\*POSTLUDE**