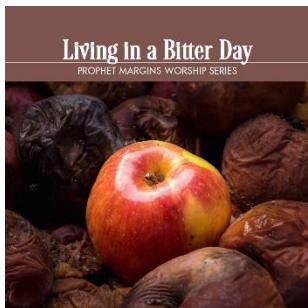


As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

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**

Last Sunday, we heard from Amos who through God encouraged us to take a look at our own neighborhoods. What do you see where you live and work and play? But we don't stop there. We are called to enlarge our vision and see beyond our own boundaries. This a harder seeing, an often-troubling investigation. Today God asks Amos, who then asks us, to look deeper and God's words are very straight forward, and I must add might earth shaking. Hear the word of God this day:

*8:1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me--a basket of summer fruit. 8:2 He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. 8:3 The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," says the Lord GOD; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!" 8:4 Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 8:5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, 8:6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." 8:7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. 8:8 Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? 8:9 On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. 8:10 I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. 8:11 The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. 8:12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.*

What is underneath our wealth, our comfort, our excess? Who is suffering, who is hurting, who is decaying like the basket of summer fruit in our text, which is coming to the end of its summer? That's the look that we're invited to take today.

This isn't a call to nation bashing, to pointing fingers, and calling names. This isn't about blame. But it is a call to truth, to reality. What do we see? What do we see in our neighborhood about the inequities of the distribution of wealth? What do we see in our nation about the inequities of the distribution of justice? What do we see in our world about the inequities of the distribution of resources? Amos is asking us to take a hard look at the state of our world. This is a look we too often turn away from, claiming to be too busy, too wrapped up in our struggles to see beyond our boundaries.

Maybe the way to find the strength to take this look is to begin by looking at where we are trying to make a difference. We have seen poverty and we want to respond with food distribution and job creation. We have seen injustice and we want to respond with protests and petitions, with pro bono work and advocacy. We have seen the ravages of depression and mental illness and we want to respond with community care plans and mentoring and access to health care.

It's a hard task, but Amos is asking us to see everything—to see a world in need of God's guidance and Spirit; to see a world in need of a kin-dom way of living in community; to see a world in need of diversity and acceptance; to see a world as it really is and not give in to despair. That's the hard part; that's the struggle. The theme of seeing everything needs to be undergirded with hope—hope that with God, all things are possible; hope that while we might not know them yet, there are solutions; there are possibilities. That's our proclamation today: It's a roll up our sleeves and get to work invitation.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Prophets, what do you see?

**We see the many ways we distract ourselves.**

What else do you see?

**We see the good and the bad fruits we have produced.**

What do you see today?

**We witness and worship God today, grateful for love and forgiveness.**

**AMEN.**

## **GENERAL PRAYER**

**Creator God, today, we think of your creation. We think of the ground beneath us, the air surrounding us, the water that flows through us. We are in awe of the way a seed can grow into nourishment for our bodies, the way life comes forth from what seems so small. Draw our attention to your creation, so that we might praise you for your incredible gifts!**

**Amen.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #454 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Author: Clara H. Scott (1895)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: Clara H. Scott (1895)

(Dropbox folder – Music from Discipleship website)

### 1. Open my eyes, that I may see

glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

### 2. Open my ears, that I may hear

voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

### 3. Open my mouth, and let me bear

gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

## We Hear God’s Word

Gospel Reading..... Luke 10:38-42  
New Revised Standard Version

### Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.[a] 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s[b] feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” 41 But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one.[c] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## **FAITH HYMN UMH #732 “Come, We That Love the Lord”**

Author: Isaac Watts (1707)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: ST. THOMAS

Composer: Aaron Williams

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

**1. Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
and thus surround the throne.**

**3. The hill of Zion yields  
a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
or walk the golden streets.**

**2. Let those refuse to sing  
who never knew our God;  
but children of the heavenly King  
may speak their joys abroad.**

**4. Then let our songs abound,  
and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's  
ground,  
to fairer worlds on high.**

### **“Message”**

#### **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

God of Justice,

We confess to you today that we often find ourselves  
feeling bitter, distraught, and ashamed.

We far too often fail to take accountability for our sins and wrongdoings.  
In an effort to feel better about ourselves, we overfill our plates with tasks,  
hoping to atone for our misdeeds.

We confess that we have trampled on the needy, choosing greed.

We confess that we have brought ruin to the poor of the land,  
neglecting many parts of your creation.

We confess that we have practiced deceit, fearful of being exposed.

We confess that far too often, we choose busyness  
over the gift of your loving presence.

We lament our mistakes to you, O God.

We mourn the harm we have caused knowingly and  
unknowingly, individually and collectively.

We ask your forgiveness to envelop us,  
inspiring us to make amends with ourselves and others.

Open our eyes that we may see the lessons you place before us.

Help us better love you by loving your creation.

We bow before you open and exposed, yet searching for your love as we  
Join our voices together in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

## **Departing Hymn FWS #2186 “Song of Hope” (sing twice through)**

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(Dropbox folder – Music from Discipleship website)

**May the God of hope go with us every  
day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and  
peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our  
way,  
bringing light and hope to every land  
and race.**

### **Refrain:**

**Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Let us go forth into the world as people of the resurrection, people who can look evil in the eye and see beyond it to the sure and certain day when God shall turn all our mourning into dancing. Let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and practice resurrection. Let God's people say, "AMEN!"

## **\*POSTLUDE**