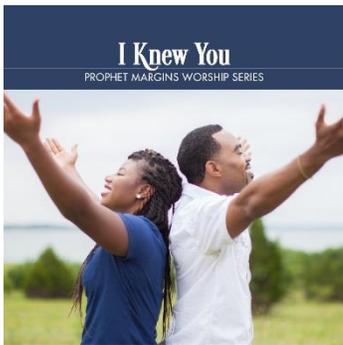


*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

We're back on more comfortable ground this week. Today we have the promise of presence. Supposedly, John Wesley's final words were "best thing of all, God is with us." We love to celebrate that God is with us and we are not alone. That is a powerful message at any time of the year.

Jeremiah knows intimately about the presence of God. In fact, truth be told, if you keep reading in the book, presence can be a burden to bear. Jeremiah struggled with it. God seemed to want to direct all his steps, not just the ones to church each week. God seemed to want to put all the words in his mouth, not just the ones he used to make prophecies.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Jeremiah's Call and Commission

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

*5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*

6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." 7 But the Lord said to me,

*"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.*

*8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."*

9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

*10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”*

So, the question we consider for this week is how much of your life are you really willing to surrender to God?

Like Hosea and his desire to love us into wholeness, Jeremiah claims that God knows us into service and witness. God works within us to make us what we already are and to grow into what we will be.

How does God speak to us?
How do we know God's direction in our lives?

There is a lot of uncertainty about how this works. Jeremiah and all the prophets make it sound like there are voices in the night. And maybe for some, there are. But for most of us, there is a warm heart, or a persistent urge, or something that brings tears or hope. In all of these ways, God through the Spirit, makes God's will known for our lives. Because God knows us so intimately, God is always on our side.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ACTION

The Lord calls to us to go into the world—

We will go!

God commands us speak as God commands—

We will speak!

God assures us, “Do not be afraid”—

We trust that God will deliver us!

GENERAL PRAYER

In Jeremiah, we read how you formed our souls, long before anyone knew us. You consecrated us for kingdom work long before our birth. You've called us to be a prophet to the nations! We know that life moves in cycles of growth and destruction, picking and pulling, building and overthrowing. Yet, we may rest in the assurance that we are known and loved by God, who creates beautiful things! Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#593 “Here I am, Lord”**

Author: Dan Schutte (1981)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1981 OCP

Notes: Hymnal states text and tune copyright 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR, however, copyright has been resigned

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z3hONJeOCc>

**1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?**

Whom shall I send?

Chorus

**Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Chorus

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

Chorus

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading.....Luke 13:10-17

New Revised Standard Version *Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman*

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" 17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN UMH #273 "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands"

Author: Margaret Cropper (1975)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1979 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. and Methodist Church Division of Education and Youth
Tune Information

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1988)

Copyright: Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJGHJ1dhOj4>

**1 Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.**

**2 Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.**

"Message"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God, You have created us with purpose.

You have given each of us gifts and talents that we might use to
bring forth your kingdom to this earth!

We confess that we selfishly use our gifts for personal gain, forgetting that they, too,
are a means of tithing.

You have bestowed on us unique abilities that allow us to help your children across the
world—

the poor, the orphan, the widow, the immigrant, and the oppressed.

How beautiful a gift you have given us! Forgive us when we forget to share it.

As you did for the prophet Jeremiah, put your hand to our mouths,

our hands, our feet, our minds... all the different parts of us

so that we may speak, act, write, teach, comfort, and share
your good news!

May our magnificently different voices carry the incredible message of your love,
redemption, and grace.

We are called to be prophets! As prophets we join our voices together, God,
praying for the coming of your kingdom,

using the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

(Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Mighty God, bringing our tithes and offerings to you today, we pray over them and sing your praises. Then we slink back into our day-to-day lives, hoping those gifts meet the expectations of our discipleship. You have called us to more – to speak for you, to make our testimony part of our offering, which terrifies us. Then scripture reminds us that you will provide us with the words. Give us the faith and courage to speak of your love, mercy, and compassion. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

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

Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all people. Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of His Spirit. And may God’s blessing be upon us and remain with us always. Amen

***POSTLUDE**