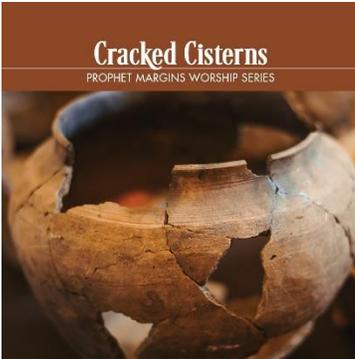


As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



- Prelude**
- Welcome**
- Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

God is on our side—until we’re not. Wait, does that make sense? God is on our side, but sometimes we wander away. Sometimes we are off track. That’s what sin means, off track. All the shouting in our text today is because folks don’t know that they are off track. This isn’t anger or wrath. This is God calling God’s people back. They’ve wandered off. Worse, they think all that they have received is due to their own efforts rather than a gift from God. They’ve forgotten to be grateful. All their gratitude has leaked out.

That’s the image that Jeremiah offers. We leak. We can’t hold the grace of God, the water of life. We receive it, we fill up, week by week, but it leaks out. And if we don’t return to be filled again, we’re going to go dry. We’re going to be running on empty. We need to return to the source. No one, Jeremiah reminds us in this text, thought to ask about the author of all the goodness the people enjoy. No one thought to wonder where God is in the business of their lives.

Jeremiah 2:4-13

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

4 Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. 5 Thus says the Lord:

*What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me
and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?*

*6 They did not say, “Where is the Lord,
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?”*

*7 I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.
But when you entered you defiled my land*

*and made my heritage an abomination.
8 The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?"
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers[a] transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal
and went after things that do not profit.*

*9 Therefore once more I accuse you,
says the Lord,
and I accuse your children's children.
10 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look;
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.*

*11 Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.*

*12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked; be utterly desolate,
says the Lord,*

*13 for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.*

So, we've gathered this week to worship and do that very thing, to fill up on God's presence and to ask where God is in the rest of our lives. And to be reminded that God has always been present. We're the ones who wandered off. We're the ones who said that we could handle it on our own. So, now we're back to ask again for God to be present, for God to make God's self known to us. And we need to do it again and again because we leak. We are cracked cisterns, letting the presence of God leak away from us day by day until we return to be reminded.

CALL TO WORSHIP/ BREATH PRAYER

Family, breathe in the love of God with me.

People: (deep breath in)

Beloved Children of God, breathe out your self-doubts.

People: (deep breath out)

Knowing that you are loved by the God of the Universe, I welcome you to worship today.

People: Our hearts are ready.

OPENING PRAYER

Infinite God, You have brought us into abundance. You have given us physical and spiritual nourishment You have led us to flowing waters of grace. We come to worship today, seeking these things for our souls. May we accept what you offer us today in its entirety, that we might share with others. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#57 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (verse 1-6)**

Author: Charles Wesley (1739)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: AZMON

Composer: Carl G. Gläser

Arranger: Lowell Mason (1839)

(Dropox file: Music from the Discipleship website)

**1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.**

**3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**4. He breaks the power of canceled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.**

**5. He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading.....Luke 14:1, 7-14

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Heals the Man with Edema

14 On one occasion when Jesus[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. 8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, 9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest

place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. 11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN FWS #2222 "The Servant Song"

Author: Richard Gillard

Publication Date: 2001

Copyright: © 1997 Scripture in Song (c/o Integrity Music, Inc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2a62vw7fPc>

1. Brother, let me be your servant.

Let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are brothers on the road.

We are here to help each other

Walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you

In the night time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you;

Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping.

When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow

Till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,

We shall find such harmony

Born of all we've known together

Of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, let me be your servant.

Let me be as Christ to you.

Pray that I might have the grace

To let you be my servant, too.

"Message"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of Life, We confess that we have gone after worthless trinkets, often losing our own worth in our materialistic desires.

Instead of claiming our true identity as Children of God, we define ourselves by other titles.

We are more than our jobs, our families, our stuff, our lack of stuff.

We are more than our hair, our size, our skin, or even our age.

While these things inform who we are, they are not what ultimately defines us.

You define us.

You are the God of Life, the true Living Water.

Our own vessels can never quench the thirst we have for your Living Water.

We try to drink from our own cisterns, cracked as they are.

May we embrace what it means to partake of water that lives and moves, not limiting ourselves to lives of stagnancy like water in a jar.

God of Life, keep flowing around us, that we may float in your Living Water!

We come before you this day using the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology (Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Renewing and refreshing God, fill our thirsty souls with your living water! As Jesus promised to the woman at the well, and as Jeremiah reminded the prophets, this water is ours if we keep our focus on you and don't chase after other gods. May the offering we make this day mark our commitment to keeping our eyes and our hearts set on a closer walk with you. We pray in the name of Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen. (Jeremiah 2:4-13)

Departing Hymn UMH #672 "God Be with You till We Meet Again" (verse 1)

Author: Jeremiah E. Rankin (1880)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: William G. Tomer (1880)

**1. God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again**

Benediction

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Nation, peace and concord; to us all Your servants the promise of everlasting life, light to guide us on our way, courage to support us, and Your blessing to unite us in service to You our God and this our Country. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**