

Racine UMC - Sumner Center – Wykoff UMC

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

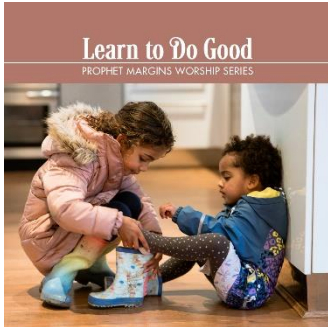
May we together experience the presence of God

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

We first turn to Isaiah this week and he doesn't waste any time getting right into the matter. He very boldly points out that the judgment we encounter today is not different from the judgment extended to any other community that forgot God and turned away. This judgment is similar to the others when it comes to injustice, classism, and ill treatment of the poor. This judgment requires strict notice, for three primary things will take place:

The country will lay desolate
 The cities will be burned with fire,
 Strangers will devour the land.

We can no longer pretend that God is not concerned about the social, political, economic, and theological instability in the world. No longer can we pretend that the gospel is for the individual and not for the community, the city, the nation, and the world.

What is our warning this day? What has God pushed us into the center to say? If we get stuck answering this question, worry not. There is a prophet who can help us.

Hear the words of Isaiah this day... (Isaiah 1:10-20)

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats.

12 When you come to appear before me,[a] who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! 13 Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. 14 Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. 16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; 17 learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

18 Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool? 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, 20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
And now, so must ours.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us here today.

We bring our full selves to God: our strengths and our weaknesses.

God calls YOU here today.

We offer all we are to God: our talents and our inadequacies.

God calls every part of us to bring divine love and light into the world!

We respond to that call, trusting that God is at work within us.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the Past, Present, and Future,

Seldom do we know what you'll ask of us each day. Many times, we are in the moment when we feel the nudging of your spirit to act. As we spend time in your house today, may our souls be aligned with you, so that we may readily respond when you call! Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #354 "I Surrender All"

Author: J. W. Van Deventer (1896)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: W. S. Weeden (1896)

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/354.mp3>

**1. All to Jesus I surrender;
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.**

Refrain:

**I surrender all, I surrender all,
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

**2. All to Jesus I surrender;
humbly at his feet I bow,
worldly pleasures all forsaken;
take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]**

**3. All to Jesus I surrender;
make me, Savior, wholly thine;
let me feel the Holy Spirit,
truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]**

**4. All to Jesus I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power;
let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]**

**5. All to Jesus I surrender;
now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]**

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
New Revised Standard Version

The Meaning of Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance[a] of things hoped for, the conviction[b] of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith[c] our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.[d]

The Faith of Abraham

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered[a] him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Children's Moments

Faith Hymn UMH #357 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Author: Charlotte Elliott (1835)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Name: WOODWORTH

Composer: William B. Bradbury (1849)

<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/357.mp3>

**1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2. Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,**

**to thee whose blood can cleanse each
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;**

**because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
6. Just as I am, thy love unknown
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come**

Meditation

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

INVITATION

(Pastor stands behind the Lord's table.)

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

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 formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.
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.
Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
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.
When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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.

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

God of Redemption, You call us to wash ourselves clean, so that our transgressions fall away. May we cease doing evil, learn to do good, and seek justice.
You call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.
May we not forget these responsibilities you've set before us.
We are grateful for the reminder from the prophet Isaiah that,
though our sins are like scarlet, you'll make us like snow!
Even though they are red like crimson, you make them like wool!
May we be obedient and willing followers, pleasing unto you.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) (Wykoff church only)

Offertory Prayer

God of love and grace, we bring our offerings this day and ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Your prophet Isaiah reminds us that offering money or possessions is not enough. Isaiah proclaims to the Israelites that unless their offerings are accompanied by a wiliness to "learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," the offerings are futile. Open our ears to hear what pleases you and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***Departing Hymn UMH #666 "Shalom To You"**

Author: Elise S. Eslinger (1980)

Publication Date: 1989

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Tune Information

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1989)

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3TqB5YQ4_4

**Shalom to you now, shalom,
my friends, May God's full mercies
bless you, my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom**

BENEDICTION

By: Richard Halverson

Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
God has a purpose in your being right where you are.
Christ, who indwells you by the power of his Spirit,
wants to do something in and through you.
Believe this and go in his grace, his love, his power.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Postlude