

---

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

*May we together experience the presence of God.*

*\* - You are invited to stand at these times... if you are able*

---

***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***



**Prelude – Welcome - Announcements**

**Gathering Meditation**

Love is our mission. Love is our command. Today we find our center with Love surrounding us. 1 John 4: 7-16 says: God Is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

So, let us come to Him who loves us this day by giving our love back to Him as we praise and worship Him. Come let us unite in our loving call to worship Him by uniting in our call to worship

**\*A Vineyard Call to Worship: (From John 15:1-8)**

God is the True Vine,

**And we are the branches.**

Connected to God;

**Connected to bear fruit!**

Connected to God;

**Or we wither away.**

Connected to God;

**Or useless!**

We come to worship God, who is the True Vine.

**God, teach us how to remain connected so that we might bear good fruit!**

## A Prayer for an Inclusive Church

God, we see the historical record of your inclusiveness. We see your grand plan, good news for all, starting at the place closest to us and stretching to the farthest places we could imagine. For the first believers, good news reached out to the Samaritans, the Gentiles, the Ethiopians, and even the Romans who oppressed them. For us, it does not reach so far. Teach us, O God, to think beyond the boundaries of the people we already know and love. Give us an eye to see those you see on the margins, in the outlands, even in outlandish places! Enlarge our hearts so that we have room for any who would receive your good news. Amen.

### **\*Praise Hymn UMH #170**

### **"Oh How I Love Jesus"**

Author: Frederick Whitfield (1855)

Publication Date: 1989

**1. There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.**

#### **Refrain:**

**O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!**

**2. It tells me of a Savior's love,  
who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood,  
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

**3. It tells of one whose loving heart  
can feel my deepest woe;  
who in each sorrow bears a part  
that none can bear below. [Refrain]**

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

**Gospel Lesson.....John 15:1-8**

### **Jesus the True Vine**

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes[a] to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples.

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

## Children's sermon

### **\*Faith Hymn UMH #706 "Soon and Very Soon"**

Author: Andraé Crouch (1978)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin.

CapitolCMG Publishing.com

CCLI Number: 11249

Tune Information

Composer: Andraé Crouch (1978)

Copyright: © 1976 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), Crouch Music (ASCAP), admin.

CapitolCMG Publishing.com

#### **Verse 1**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Soon and very soon**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah hallelujah**

**We're going to see the King**

#### **Verse 2**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more dying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah hallelujah**

**We're going to see the King**

#### **Verse 3**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**No more crying there**

**We are going to see the King**

**Hallelujah hallelujah**

**We're going to see the King**

**\*\*Message\*\***

#### **Joys/Concerns**

##### **Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer**

As God's people, called to love one another,  
let us pray for the needs of the church,  
the whole human family,  
and all the world. That churches of all traditions,

may discover their unity in Christ  
and exercise their gifts in service of all,  
we pray to you, O God.

That the earth may be freed  
from war, famine, and disease,  
and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison,  
we pray to you, O God.

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land  
may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands,  
That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities  
so that the races may be reconciled;  
the young, educated; and the old, cared for;  
the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed;  
and the sick, comforted and healed,  
we pray to you, O God.

That you will preserve all who live and work  
in this city (town, village, community)  
in peace and safety,  
and all our acts are prayer;  
through Jesus Christ  
and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer of Jesus Christ.....

### **Offertory (UM Hymnal 95)**

Gracious God, you are the vine grower, and we belong to you. Thank you for carefully tending us, especially in difficult times. You provide what we need in order to grow as disciples of Jesus. Help us to abide in him, the true vine. May these offerings and our lives bear much fruit and bring glory to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (John 15:1-8)

### **We Go Forth To Serve God and Our Neighbors**

#### **\*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*

**I Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us**

**to work for your kingdom and answer your 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, the whole human race.  
With your feast 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.**

**\*Blessing**

Go forth, blessed ones. Bless all whom God blesses. Make peace wherever you can. And know God goes this road with you.

**\*Postlude\***