

*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**

This week, we look at what are called the Beatitudes, the first part of the Sermon on the Mount.

With that in mind what if Jesus began his teaching ministry with a word of encouragement instead of an impossible standard to attain?

What if the Beatitudes were a snapshot of the community of faith instead of a measuring rod?

What if Jesus was saying, Blessed is the community who makes room for peacemakers? Blessed is the community who makes room for the meek, for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who are poor in spirit. Blessed is the community who makes room for those who mourn at the brokenness of the world, who is unstained by the impurity of the world. Blessed is the community who knows persecution is inevitable and still decides to make room for those the world thinks are unimportant.”

You see, I think Jesus was trying to get us to look again and see who we are, see what is among us. He was opening those folders we had forgotten and showing us our true selves.

Sure, there is a call here as well; I’m not dismissing that. But it is not an impossible call because it is already among us in the community of faith. We learn from one another because we are gifted; we are blessed in different ways.

So, today your directive is to take time to take a good look at the snapshot of the community of faith. You might be surprised at how blessed you are.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Happy are we

**when our treasures cannot be quantified.**

Happy are we

**when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.**

Happy are we

**when our pain is held in the balm of love.**

Happy are we

**when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.**

## BEATITUDE ACCLAMATION

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

**Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.**

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

**Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.**

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

**Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.**

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

**Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.**

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

**Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

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

**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 5:1-12**  
**New Revised Standard Version**

#### ***The Beatitudes***

*5 When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:*

*3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

*8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely[b] on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

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

## FAITH HYMN

## "Message"

### INVITATION UMH Page #12

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.

And now with the confidence of the children of God we pray, Our Father...

### **Sharing of the Elements**

#### **PRAYING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

(inspired by Matthew 5-7)

Lord and Creator,  
let us embrace the costly blessings which you desire for us,  
blessings that confound the wisdom and strength of this world.

Teach us to be your agents of preservation in a world touched by death,  
and beacons of hope in a world shrouded in darkness.

Transform us into your image through the crucible of the cross,  
writing your mandates upon our hearts, made pure by your perfect love.

Embolden us to be your ambassadors, Living as representatives of your holy kingdom,  
stirring in us your love for others, especially for those we raise to you this day.

For every moment we live, we live for your glory—  
the glory of a loving Father and a just King.

You are the answer to our every question.  
You are the treasure that we desperately seek,  
and it is you who invite us into your salvation,  
as prodigals returning to the Father's embrace.

Keep us upon your path of righteousness and justice,  
bearing the good fruit of your Spirit,

for it is on you, Lord Jesus, that all hope is built,  
For all of creation, now and forever more.– in the name of the Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology Offertory Prayer**

God of all blessings, your beloved son teaches all we need to know to claim the life you've hoped for us. Today we bring to you our gifts, which are the result of your blessings, help us to remember who Jesus called truly blessed! We pray in the name of our teacher and savior. Amen. (Matthew 5:1-12)

**Departing Hymn**

**Benediction**

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;  
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;  
and Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,  
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**