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As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. Whether you are joining us virtually or physically. May we together experience the presence of God

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Human Relations Sunday



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Meditation

On this Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, let our gathering today be filled with the awareness that as the United Methodist Church we too, honor our brothers and sister in Christ of all nationalities as we observe Human Relations Day, today is an opportunity for us to join together across the connection to raise our hands in solidarity for social justice initiatives and outreach to at-risk youth. Human Relations Day offers us opportunities to listen to God’s call to create beloved community together. This day offers us personal space to discern how we can share our gifts, time, skills, money, expertise, connections—to create a neighborhood, a city, a nation, and a world where all can flourish. Though this hour of worship may the Lord speak to your heart and give you guidance.

The truth is folks there are moments when we all need a wakeup call to keep from sleeping through our own lives. So, let today be a call to hope as we gather, I say - Speak, Lord, your servants are listening. Because something good is coming to us. Or rather, something good is already among us. Let us claim it, even as we claim our call to be what Christ has called us to be. Let us unite for it is time to worship our Lord as his beloved who welcome all His children into His grace.

Call To Worship

Come into worship, and see what God has in store for us today!

We have busy lives, but still, we’re curious . . .

Come into God’s presence and see the difference love makes!

We’ve been burned by love before, but still, we’re needy . . .

Come into the light and see the glory of God!

Our eyes have been closed for so long, but still, we yearn for the light . . .

Come and see! Come and see!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (1 SAMUEL 3, JOHN 1)

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment.

Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture. Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to

followers both old and young, ancient and modern. Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us. Amen.

***Praise Hymn UMH #463 "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"**

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**1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
In living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
Your erring children, lost and lone.**

**2 Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet.
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Your hungry ones with manna sweet.**

**3 Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.**

**4 Oh, fill me with your fullness, Lord,
Until my very hearts o'erflows
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**5 Oh, use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as you will, and when, and where
Until your blessed face I see,
Your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... John 1:43-51

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you,[a] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

***Faith Hymn FWS #2130. "The Summons"**

Author: John L. Bell

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**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Message

Joys/Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, you create us and love us; you invite us to live together in a community. We acknowledge our slowness to do good, our blindness to injustice, and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed.

We condemn racial injustice in our pronouncements, yet we cling to the privileges derived from inequity. Forgive us, Gracious God.

On this day, we thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr. and all your children who have been filled with your vision for life and who have worked to bring your vision into reality.

May we join them on the journey of faith.

Fill us with your vision of love. Guide us to live by your vision of compassion and justice, and empower us to work to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed,

all are valued, power is shared, privilege is no more, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. In accordance with the commands of Jesus Christ, shake us from our sleep with your imperative to do justice; move us to action with the compassion of your grace; and give us courage to pay the price, however painful or costly, that the justice you intend, may be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, as you have blessed us, may you also be with and bless those we name before you this day (share names of those given during Joys and concerns) ...

Hear us now, as we pray the prayer your beloved Son taught us to pray with one voice...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of all wisdom, how often have we been deaf to your voice speaking to our hearts, especially when we move in a world that needs it so desperately? The reading from 1 Samuel brings us the phrase, "The word of the Lord was rare in those days," which resonates with the relevance of the evening news. As we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so that we might do what you need to begin healing our world. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); John 1:43-51)

***Departing Hymn FWS #2129. "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

Author (attributed to): Simon Marak

**1 I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**2 The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.**

**3 Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.**

BENEDICTION

Jesus said "follow me" and "come and see" how we can change the world. Let us follow Jesus and see what happens next. Amen.

Postlude