

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

+++++

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Prelude – Welcome - Announcements



Opening Meditation

At this stage of our Lenten journey, we encounter the fruit and the charge that comes with losing our life to find it in God—service. We cannot follow Jesus without serving our neighbors.

So let us come together this day with our focus to be on a day of prayer - for the inspiration to discover and the wisdom to know what is ours to do.. Losing our lives to God does not mean we burn ourselves out to save the world all on our own. Let us remember that Losing our lives to God also means trusting that God does not need us to do everything—only the things we are called to do. So, let us find our center as a time to both surrender to God and commit ourselves to discerning God’s call to service in the specific neighborhood and community where we are planted.

Come let us worship our Lord!

A Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.

Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.

This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.

Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

Come, let us worship! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we know Easter is coming soon and while we anxiously wait to celebrate your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. And try as we might, we cannot comprehend love and mercy so great as this. There is nothing perfect about us, yet you beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, selfishness, pettiness, pride, and apathy. You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on you and you alone for our redemption and salvation. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #590 “Here I Am, Lord (I, the Lord of Sea and Sky)”

Author: Dan Schutte (1981)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1981 OCP

*ONE LICENSE:*80670

Notes: Hymnal states text and tune copyright 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR, however, copyright has been resigned

Tune Information

Composer: Dan Schutte (1981)

Copyright: © 1981 OCP

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.**

**I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.**

Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Gospel Reading..... John 12:20-33 (NRSV)

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people[a] to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH #707 "Hym of Promise"

*Author: Natalie Sleeth (1986)
ONE LICENSE: 02425*

**1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**2 There's a song in ev'ry silence,
seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.**

**From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Message

Joys/Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Heavenly Father, when we feel that we have lost direction as a people, or even as a person, help us remember your presence in our wilderness journeys.

Great Deliverer, your steadfast love and wonderful works have spared us of troubles known and unknown, for you are in love with us.

Holy Spirit, help us remember the great work that Christ accomplished for us, which no other person could perform. Help us confess with gladness, "by grace we have been saved."

Lord Jesus Christ, gift of mercy from God the Father, you love us even when we are most unlovable, lost, and afraid. Thank you for your grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross like the serpent in the wilderness, lift up our eyes to see you as the Lord and Savior, loving God's whole world.

We bring before you those whom you love with special needs, known to us as family and friends ____.

Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we remember that we are your precious dust as we come together to share in your prayer – Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology

Offertory Prayer

God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need and afraid somehow there won't be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In our redeemer's name, we pray. Amen. (John 12:20-33)

Departing Hymn UMH 369 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

Author: Fanny J. Crosby (1873)

Publication Date: 1989

Tune Information

Composer: Phoebe P. Knapp (1873)

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,

**visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
(Refrain)**

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
(Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

Beloved, go from this place to seek and find the glory of Christ wherever you go. And may you be blessed to recognize Christ as you notice, meet, and serve your neighbors today and every day. Amen.

Postlude