

*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**

Once again today, we are called to celebrate our faith and to embrace ways of living out that faith that might grow and change but, in the end, will remain true to the words and witness of Jesus Christ.

The mentor to the young Timothy focuses our attention on persistent. Both bringing us to the importance of worship and questions of why?

Why do we do what we do?
Why do we read from this ancient text week after week?
How does this book written in a different context by different people over a long period of time have anything to say to us today and the world in which we live now?

The purpose behind the attention to the “why” of worship is to maintain a focus.

Distractions abound, and our text draws attention to an inclination to wander off in search of something new to a distracted mind or itching ears.

Come, let us center ourselves in God’s words of purpose for his beloved children:

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here to worship seeking a focus for our being.

God calls us to worship the Word made flesh.

We gather here to worship, though we feel drawn in too many directions, overwhelmed with too many tasks, chasing after something we can’t quite name.

God calls us to worship leaning into the Spirit of Truth

We gather here to worship, wondering and hoping, doubting and uncertain, frustrated and afraid. But we are here.

God calls us to worship with our whole selves. We are here; let us worship with joy.

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3–4)

Lord, your words are sweet to the taste, sweeter than honey; let them be our daily meditation and our study. Give us ears to hear, for we marvel at your instruction. Train us in righteousness, grant us patience and persistence, and equip us for every good work. Inspire our faith and give us voices to proclaim your message. Guide our feet, keep us from every false way, for you alone speak the words of life. Amen.

Praise Hymn

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
New Revised Standard Version

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is[a] useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn

"Message"

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Merciful God, how wonderful is your law, how gracious are your ways. In your words are sweetness and in your path is life. Coming as children of your own choosing, we offer our praise to your holy Name and we lift our thanksgivings to your glory.

Your promises are true.

But our hearts turn away from you. We fall in love with the concerns of this world
We are selfish, and we do not wish to learn. O Lord, forgive our iniquity and turn us back to you, the Source of our life.

Your life-giving Spirit has been breathed into the sacred writings that instruct us for salvation through faith. Take away the itching in our ears and ground us in your word that we might proclaim the truth to an unbelieving world, bringing it back to the truth.

O Merciful Lord, this day there are many who are discouraged and have lost heart because of their suffering, many who need to feel your love and presence and today we raise to you Wrap them in your loving arms and give them comfort. If their affliction is not removed in this life, then grant them strength to endure. Give to all in distress your peace.

Write your words in our hearts O Lord, for we come to you in prayer this day in the name of Jesus Christ your Son who taught us...Our Father...

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, as we offer our gifts to you this day, we pray that, in our giving, we may be reconnected to the reason why we follow and the reason why we give. In Christ, we pray, our guiding light. Amen. (2 Timothy 3:14-4:5)

Departing Hymn

Benediction

May the living word of the Lord dwell with you.
May it live through you.
May it fill your thoughts and deeds.
May it fill your mouth with God's message of love.
May it sustain you in good times and bad.
May it equip you for a ministry of peace and hope!

***POSTLUDE**