

*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're about giving our all. About living full out, about being alive the way Jesus describes living when He said: "I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 NRSV). This is what the life of faith offers;

That abundant life brings change, challenges status quo, and works for justice and equality. Life poured out in service draws attention.

Now living this Christian life might wear us out, but it comes with a promise. The promise that the Lord will stand by us in strength". We who are called to give everything find that there is more of everything than we knew, because of the one who stands by us. We are sent with a challenge, but more powerfully, we are sent with a promise.

Come let us find our center as we join together in our call to worship..

CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship because the Lord stood by us on difficult days.

Even when we weren't aware and felt alone.

We worship because the Lord gives strength.

Even when we feel so weak.

We worship because we have been rescued again and again.

Even when we are afraid that we have lost.

Come and worship the God **who stands with us in our darkest days and promises to be with us to the end.**

We will worship in hope, seeking eyes to see and hearts to believe in God with us.

OPENING PRAYER

At the starting line of this day, we call on your name, God of grace. As we run the race you have set before us, help us to keep our eyes on your goals, not our own. When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage. When we are fleet-footed, let us give you the glory. Keep us from wanting to win at other's expense or to count

ourselves better than those at our side. All runners are your children. In the race You imagine, each one is a winner. Amen.

Praise Hymn

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Luke 18:9-14
New Revised Standard Version

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH

"Message"

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

(inspired by 2 Timothy 4: 6-8 and Hebrews 12: 1-3)

Lord, thank you so much for your faithfulness to us in the difficult times.
Help each of us to run with perseverance
the race that you set before us
and to finish that race well with your help.
Help us to keep the faith
and the teaching that you have entrusted to us
and pass it on faithfully to those in the next generation
who can teach others also.
We know you will be with us to the end.
We know that your grace is sufficient.
In Jesus' name, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

Offertory Doxology Offertory Prayer

God of the universe, In our giving to you this day, may you bless us so that we might better keep our eyes focused on you, that one day we might be able to echo your servant Paul as he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. We pray this in the name of Jesus who loved us even to the cross! Amen (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

Departing Hymn

Benediction

Our gathered worship has ended, but our race goes on. The faith we celebrate in here continues to be the faith we keep out there. As you have poured yourself out in worship – in song and in prayer, in fellowship and in unity – now may we go to pour ourselves out in service to the world God so loves. Let the church be the witness that God is at work in the world. Go with God. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**