

*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**

Every encounter with Jesus brings transformation. At the very least, we see ourselves in a new light, in all our humanness.

But as you read the gospels have you ever wondered - What it would have been like to actually encounter Jesus face to face?

We can't know for sure, of course, but today we can get a glimpse of what happened to a wee little man named Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who did meet Jesus.

And I think we will find that the Zacchaeus story is all about transformation, a change in behavior that all began when he came down from a tree and changed his life. I also think we may be able to find some common ground in his story.

So, as you hear His word today ask yourself this question of this passage: "Where are you in the story?"

- Are you standing with the crowd, shaking your head at those people who aren't worth it?
- Or are you standing next to Jesus, inviting yourself into the homes of those whom others think are sinners?
- Or perhaps, you out on a limb, hoping for a glimpse of Jesus and a whole new way of living?

Wherever you may find yourself, one thing is certain. A face-to-face encounter with Jesus Christ will transform your life wherever your perspective of view may be.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

With the pressing crowds, searching for healing and hope,

**We wish to see Jesus.**

With the pushed out and cast aside, with the lonely lost, stripped of pride,

**We wish to see Jesus.**

With those who seek mystery and meaning, wisdom and grace,

**We wish to see Jesus.**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**O God, forgive us for those times when we stood around and watched Jesus touch others and offered negative reactions. At times, we have been self-centered wanting the attention for ourselves. Because of our judgmental behavior, we have often blocked the meetings between Jesus and others like Zacchaeus. Help us to**

remember that it is we who are Zacchaeus, embarrassed by our spiritual height and trying to get a glimpse of Jesus among so many tall believers. Give us faith to hear you calling our name. Amen.

## Praise Hymn

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

**Gospel Reading..... Luke 19:1-10**  
**New Revised Standard Version**

#### ***Jesus and Zacchaeus***

*19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."*

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

#### **Children's Sermon**

## **HYMN**

### **"Message"**

#### **Joys/Concerns**

#### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

O Lord, how good and righteous are your judgements. Your testimonies are sure, and your promises are always kept. Receive now our worship of your glory. Delight in the songs of praise which we offer to your holy name.

In your mercy, you have chosen to bring the good news to sinners. We know that we have sinned against you, and we seek to hide in places where you will not find us. Yet you are so loving that you will not let us remove ourselves from your care.

We know that your law is true and is the way of righteousness. Fill us with your Spirit of understanding that we may live to your glory and proclaim the good news of eternal life in all the world.

We turn to you and ask your mercies upon those who suffer any kind of distress in body, mind, or spirit. We lift up those in any kind of trouble. Make them steadfast in their faith that they may endure their afflictions that the name of the Lord Jesus may be glorified.

Accept our praise and thanksgiving for all your mercies to us, and grant to us what we most need. These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray...Our Father...

### **Offertory**

### **Doxology**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Compassionate God, As we give to you this day, may we also follow the example of Zacchaeus – with an explosion of gratitude and generosity – and may we also know his joy! We pray this in the name of Jesus, who invites himself to our table! Amen. (Luke 19:1-10)

### **Departing Hymn**

### **Benediction**

Christ has sought you. Christ has touched you. Christ has called you.  
Christ has visited your house. Christ is in you and around you. Christ will set you free.  
Go with Christ and share what he has gifted you. Amen

### **\*POSTLUDE**