

Prairieland Parish

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 – Joys/Concerns



Opening Meditation

Today We continue to envision what it would be like to live in the kin-dom of God as a community of faith. But this week, we focus on the doing. It is important for us to understand that loving God and loving neighbor is not about cultivating attitudes or about generating feelings or emotions.

Sure, it is great to have a warm heart toward those with whom we serve, but it is not a prerequisite. When we are given this commandment to love God and love neighbor, it is all about how we act, about what we do, how we show love in day-by-day encounters and in casual points of contact as well as moments of mission and ministry. How do we live in community, face to face with the people Jesus told us to serve?

Of course, we can pray, and we need to pray that God changes our hearts so that loving is always the first inclination. But such transformation can often come through practice. So, how do we practice loving one another? Do we pay attention to those on the margins of our society and our church? Maybe this week we need to slow down and look around us. Then the question we need to carry in our hearts and on our lips is “How can I pray for you today and this week so that you can know peace?” This week God encourages you to find a way to move beyond the surface into loving acts of acknowledgment. To take a moment to be face-to-face with one another in our daily routines and create a space to welcome God into it.

It might feel odd for a while. But that’s part of growing into the vision of who and what we might be together. If we practice it from time to time we can move beyond intellectual assent to the idea of loving, and we get down to living our love of God and neighbor in little ways as we worship and as we live. And we do it not from a distance but face to face.

A Call to Worship

As we gather to worship today, turn to a neighbor* and say to each other, “Welcome! I am glad you are here!”

Welcome! I am glad you are here!

Now, turn to another neighbor* and say to each other, “You are loved by God and by me!”

You are loved by God and by me!

Beloved children of God, how can we love each other today?

By meeting and listening and caring for one another face-to-face.

Beloved children of God, how can we love God today?

By practicing our love for one another and God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Let us worship God together today!

We come to worship God by living our love for God and neighbor face-to-face. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #64 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”. (verses 1-3)

Author: Reginald Heber (1826)

Composer: John B. Dykes (1861)

**1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

Gospel Reading..... Matthew 22:34-46 (NRSV)

The Greatest Commandment

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37 He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Question about David’s Son

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 “What do you think of the Messiah?[a] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit[b] calls him Lord, saying,

44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.
This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

Faith Hymn UMH#154 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (verses 1-3)

Author: Edward Perronet (1779)

Composer: Oliver Holden (1792)

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

**Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.**

Message

Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/ Offertory Prayer

God of unimaginable love, you have given us so much and asked so little. In the words of Jesus, we have been commanded to love you with our whole being, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. For that simple price, you have given us everything and promised to love us and not desert us. It is a covenant more generous than anyone could imagine, and yet how often we fail to keep the bargain. We love you when it is convenient and will not embarrass us before others. We pick and choose which neighbors we love. as we pick and choose when we will love ourselves. As we dedicate our gifts this morning to bringing acts of love, may we also resolve to better keep our side of your covenant of love. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Matthew 22:34-46)

Departing Hymn UMH # 557 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (verse 1)

Author: John Fawcett (1782)

Composer: Johann G. Nägeli

**1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

SENDING FORTH

Go to celebrate the God who is our home forever.
Go to follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor.
Go with the Holy Spirit to change the world with love. Amen

Postlude