

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

July 21, 2024

WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT: "Father, I Adore You"

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1. Father I adore You - Lay my life before You - How I love You
2. Jesus I adore You - Lay my life before You - How I love You
3. Spirit I adore You - Lay my life before You - How I love You

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: AΩ*

L: Wonderful Creator, you come to us with power and gentleness, strength and compassion, peace and joy.

C: We come to you with hope and hopelessness, love and heartbreak, thanksgiving and lament.

L: You fortify us as we go on our journey, assured of your presence & renewed by your love.

**C: Give us rest in our coming and our going.
Give us joy in ministering in your name.**

A: May our worship restore our soul as we dwell in your presence. Amen.

HYMN: #207 v.v. 1 - 3 "Just As I Am" (Public Domain)

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called Inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt
Fighting and fears within without O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 3 Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE:AΩ*

L: Holy God, too often we wait to turn to you until we are in a state of desperation, when you invite us to seek you and your ways first. You call us to rest in your truth, your love, and your peace without abdicating our responsibility to embody your good news in the world.

A: In all honesty we come before you and admit our struggle to seek you first and to find balance in the rhythms of rest and renewal in our lives. As we lay our lives before you; we seek your guidance and direction toward a life where you are our peace, our hope, and our standard. Guide us on this path, we pray. Amen.

*Moment of Silence, In Confession, Listening to God &
Reflection on God's Forgiveness, Love, Guidance, Redemption, and Restoration of our Lives*

WORDS OF GRACE:AΩ*

L: Beloved, you do not journey alone. In community with the Holy One and one another, we find grace and strength to heed the call to discipleship. In Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the good news and reflect the living God, who created us, who is near to us, faithful to redeem, and affirms our rest and renewal.

**A: Thanks be to God! Redeemed, rested and renewed,
we will continue life's journey, answering the call to be to discipleship,
and marching on in the light of God's love.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #207 v. 4 *“Just As I Am”* (Public Domain)

4 Just as I am, your love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now, to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

SCRIPTURE:

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Ephesians 2:11-22

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

A TIME OF REFLECTION: *“Come Away and Rest”*

- So busy even when you enjoy and are excited about your busyness or grateful in your busyness you can bring comfort and encouragement to others there is a limit to what a body can handle
- In my research - David Lose pointed out a single verse that sang to him and when I read that verse, it sang to me too.
- What was that verse?

- ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile.’”
- Last two weeks, wedding, funeral, friends visiting from out of town, church meetings, tri-church meetings, 102nd Birthday celebration, among other events
- So I took that advice from both scripture and David Lose
- Today I will share 2 things that inspired me this week and through that encourage each of you to consider how you will take that rest that will inspire and refresh because I know many of you have been just as busy or busier than me.
- My come away and rest is through inspirational writings, testimonials, and movies based on true life events
- Margaret’s writing “Windex God” which was in our Lenten Devotional and was shared during the service celebrating her life & goes like this

**G
O
WINDEX**
by Margaret Walser

As I awoke,
sun rays filtered through and between the dirt
splotched on the bedroom window,
creating an abstract design
on the back of my favorite second-hand chair.
I entered the bathroom and found pok-a-dot designs
on the walls and floor tile
again, created by sun and dirty window.
My Windex bottle and I spend an hour together.
The solution and dirt met
and dissolved into a murky substance on my paper towel.
I was awed by the transformation of my surroundings.
A remaining undried corner of the window acted as a prism
and rainbow colors danced off the pane
to find delight in the eyes of the towel holder.
The rooms took on a fresh appearance.

My mind reflected briefly on my life
and I thought my troubles and anger
are as dirt splotches and God is my Windex.
Turning my cares completely over to God,
He became the Windex (the solution) of my dirty windows.
I viewed the soiled stained towel and smiled as I disposed of it.
The windows were sparkling and bright,
defying any dirt to find home on their surface.
We need only to ask God to be our Windex.
Our smiles of relief can act as our armor to ward off recurring cares,
confident in the fact that as they surely will return,
we need only to reach for our Windex God to dissolve them again.

- 2nd Come Away - Movie: “Letters to God”
- Child battling cancer writes Letters to God
- Letters are prayers
- Even writes letter to classmate who made fun of him and how he looked. Offering forgiveness and not mad at him
- Most Letters focus on needs of those around him
- Shows reality of frustrations and even anger of those around him when prayers for healing aren’t being answered.
- Struggles with family dynamics when sick child getting all the attention
- Tired of hearing bible verses being quoted to them
- Tired of being ignored or seeming insignificant
- Not unlike David in Psalm 22 or Jesus from the cross crying out My God, My God why have you forsaken me
- Through this, Tyler began to encourage others to write letters to God as a way to pray.
- Response not in God writing back but through changes he saw happening in people’s lives
- Letters impacted postman who temporarily put on this child’s route
 - Trouble with his own life and own child
 - Tries to leave letters at church but pastor tells him God entrusted those letters to him for a reason and told him to hang on to them
 - Befriends Tyler and family
 - Eventually opens letters and distributes to them to the people who Tyler prayed for
- Child didn’t survive - yet impact of his life, prayers, and faith on others inspirational
- Tylers letters was his “come away and rest” in joy and trial
- There is now a mail box in his name specifically for letters to God
- Tyler probably like this in that it would encourage people to write to God
- Would not like that some would think you needed designated spot to send letter to God
- God would receive no matter where it was mailed
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➤ What is your come away and rest?

- Gardening
- Music
- Reading
- Writing
- Walking
- Watching nature
- Looking at the sky, ocean,
- Art
- Creating
- Being Still

➤ Joyous or troubled times, we all need that “come away and rest”.

➤ Will we accept God’s invite

HYMN OF PRAYER: #519 v.v. 2 & 4 “*Standing in the Need of Prayer*” (Public Domain)

2 Not the preacher nor the deacon, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher nor the deacon, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

***Refrain: It's me, it's me, It's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, It's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.***

4 Not the stranger nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

A TIME OF PRAYER -

Heavenly Father,

In a world often divided by hatred and discord, we come before You with a plea for unity and peace. We yearn for the day when Your love will transcend all boundaries, when nations will join together in harmony, and when conflicts will yield to understanding.

Grant us, Your children, the wisdom to be instruments of peace in our daily lives. Help us to listen with compassion, to speak with kindness, and to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us. May Your love radiate through us, drawing others closer to You and fostering reconciliation.

We pray for leaders around the world, that You may guide them in the paths of justice and peace. May Your spirit of unity descend upon us all, bringing about a world illumined by Your love.

**LIFTING UP PRAYER REQUESTS -
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY: ΑΩ*

L: A faithful life reflects a spirit of generosity born from trusting God who provides and replenishes our resources. God’s creation is abundant so that all needs will be met when we do our part and share the gifts we have been given. Let our giving reflect our gratitude and commitment to beloved community.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: AΩ*

L: O Most Bounteous God, and Creator of the universe,

A: we give these gifts to you through this faith community. May you lead and guide us with discernment so that our ministry would give you glory, honor your name, and benefit your creation. Amen.

SUMM-IT UP:

SENDING HYMN: #419 "Now Thank We All Our God" (Public Domain)

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given;
To Christ and Spirit too our help in highest heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION: AΩ*

In your coming and going, may you encounter Jesus on the journey.

In your coming and going, may you touch the source of power and healing.

In your coming and going, may you find rest.

In your coming and going may you let God's light shine through your life.

As you do that,

May the Lord bless and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord look upon you kindly and grant you the peace God alone can give.

POSTLUDE:

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