

**Sixth Sunday After Advent
February 12, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

“Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us, Forever
(repeat)

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise

Words & Music: Chris Tomlin
Copyright: 2001 worshiptogether.com Songs (ASCAP)/
sixsteps Music (ASCAP)
(adm. By EMICMG Publishing)
CCLI#1963157

Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 113:1-3; Psalm 118: 24]

Leader: Hallelujah! Servants of God, praise, praise the name of the Lord.

People: Bless the Lord's name now and always. Let us praise the Lord's name here and in every place from east to west.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Hymn of Adoration

#634, "To God be the Glory"

To God be the glory
Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father
Through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory
Great things He has done

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1987

Music: William Howard Doane, 1875

CCLI#1963157

Prayer of Confession

[time of silent confession]

Leader: Lord, you come to us, but often we do not recognize you; you call, but often we do not follow;

People: You command, but often we do not obey, you bless us, but we forget to thank you. Please forgive and help us.

Leader: Lord you love us, but we often do not love our neighbors.

People: You forgive us, but we have trouble forgiving those who wrong us; you come along side us when we need you, but we often fail to come alongside others in need. Please forgive and help us.

Leader: Lord, you show us how to carry out your mission, but we still too often insist on our own missions instead of yours;

People: You tell us that Christ is the way, and yet we too often keep that news to ourselves, You identify with the needy, but we too often ignore their needs; you suffered and died for the sake of all, but it is so hard for us give up our comforts to follow you. Please forgive and help us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Romans 8:1]

Leader: Hear the Good News. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

People: Through Christ, we are forgiven. Praise God.

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#693, "The Gift of Love"

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love;
my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n
by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love
guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Text: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: English folk melody, adapt., Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 10: 1-4, 17-24

10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road...

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

22 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Sermon

"Growing in Grace... The Joy When We Step Up in Faith"

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

[The Apostle's Creed]

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“So Send I You,” performed in 2021 by APC Christian Medical Missionaries

*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

*Hymn of Response

#726, “The Summons,” vs 1, 2, 5

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when You but call my name.

Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.

In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Text: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, 1987

Music: Scottish melody, arr. John L. Bell, 1987

Copyright Text, Music, Arr.: 1987 WGRC, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

CCLI#1963157

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2281, "May You Run and Not Be Weary," Sing the Faith Hymnal

May you run and not be weary
May your heart be filled with song
And may the love of God
Continue to give you hope
And keep you strong
And may you run and not be weary
May your life be filled with joy
And may the road you travel
Always lead you home

Words & Music: Handt Hanson & Paul Murakami
Copyright: 1991 Changing Church Forum

*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able

This Week Consider Praying For God to help us Step/Reach Out:

- Through the work of Union's Witness and Service Committee
- For the outreach ministries Union is involved in (like the Blessing Box, Backpack Program, CAM, Salvation Army, Gaston Street Ministry, The Cathy Mabry Cloning Center, Black Mountain Home for Boys, Nkhoma Mission Hospital & Ebenezer Institute for Learning in Malawi, and more)
- For those stepping into churches for the first time or the first time in many years. And for those stepping up to serve in the church in new ways.
- For the Holy Spirit to speak to each of our hearts to help us reach out more in faith, share our faith, and serve God in new ways.
- For helping each us show more Christian love and hospitality
- For the lonely and hurting to experience God's love