

# MUMC At-Home Worship:

January 24, 2020

From rest to a new beginning! We're transitioning this week from our series of scriptures focusing on resting to a passage marking the beginning of Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of Luke. Not only does it set up the whole of Jesus' ministry (and shows Jesus' ministry to be a part of God's ongoing work throughout scripture and history), but it captures both the excitement and challenge of a new beginning. While we may be a bit past the start of the new year, I think it's valuable to remember God's faithful invitation to start anew at any time and in any place.

Perhaps there's a new beginning waiting for us today. Thanks for worshipping with us! -Pastor Dillon

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

Lord, we pray that we would be drawn into the holy embrace of your heart. Let love and integrity envelop us until our own love is perfected and we hold no desires contrary to your Spirit. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn:** *Where He Leads Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #338 – [watch/listen here](#)

**New Testament Reading:** Luke 4:14-30

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:**

1. As Luke describes it, Jesus is not assigned the text he reads about the year of the Lord's favor but rather "found the place where it was written" intentionally. Why might this particular scripture be an appropriate foundational text for Jesus to choose as he starts his ministry? What emotions does it evoke in you as we hear it today?
2. The congregation in the synagogue moved quickly from impressed to insulted when Jesus says that he won't perform the miracles that he did in Capernaum, referencing stories about prophets sent to outsiders. How might it challenge us to consider that God looks with special care on the poor and oppressed, even above those who have close relationships with Jesus, as this congregation did?
3. In their anger, the congregation tries to throw Jesus off a cliff. Have you ever experienced such anger at the faithful expression of the gospel (translated as "good news" in the text Jesus reads)? How might it change our gospel proclamation to know it can upset some in its preference for the poor and oppressed?

**Hymn:** *Instrument of Peace* – [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** *Jesus Calls Us*, United Methodist Hymnal #398 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:**

Loving God, you have opened your kingdom to all people and look with special care on the imprisoned and oppressed. Open our hearts to the fullness of your love so we are not angered by your attention to others but inspired to participate in the fulfillment of scripture. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

## *Where He Leads Me*

### United Methodist Hymnal #338

1. I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

#### *Refrain:*

Where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me I will follow,  
where he leads me I will follow;  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

2. I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him through the garden,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
(*Refrain*)

3. I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him through the judgment,  
I'll go with him, with him all the way.  
(*Refrain*)

4. He will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
he will give me grace and glory,  
and go with me, with me all the way.  
(*Refrain*)

*"Where He Leads Me" words are by E. W. Blandy, 1890, and are in the public domain.*

### **Luke 4:14-30 (CEB)**

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He

unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed,  
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

Everyone was raving about Jesus, so impressed were they by the gracious words flowing from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?"

Then Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly, you will quote this saying to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we've heard you did in Capernaum.'" He said, "I assure you that no prophet is welcome in the prophet's hometown. And I can assure you that there were many widows in Israel during Elijah's time, when it didn't rain for three and a half years and there was a great food shortage in the land. Yet Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow in the city of Zarephath in the region of Sidon. There were also many persons with skin diseases in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha, but none of them were cleansed. Instead, Naaman the Syrian was cleansed."

When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. They rose up and ran him out of town. They led him to the crest of the hill on which their town had been built so that they could throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## *Instrument of Peace*

### **The Porter's Gate (Justice Songs)**

*Refrain:*

Lord, make me  
an instrument of peace,  
an instrument of peace.  
Lord, make me  
an instrument of peace,  
an instrument of peace

1. Where there is hatred,  
let me sow love.  
Where there is darkness,  
let me sow light.  
For in the giving,  
we shall receive,  
and in the dying,  
we're given life.  
(*Refrain*)

2. Where there is sorrow,  
let me sow hope.  
Where there is doubt,  
let me sow faith.  
Where there is injury,  
Your pardon give,  
Your consolation,  
to those in pain.  
(*Refrain*)

Amen,  
Amen.

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## **Jesus Calls Us**

### **United Methodist Hymnal #398**

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying, "Christian, follow me!"
2. As of old the apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more!"
4. In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these!"
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

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1852, and are in the public domain.*