

MUMC At-Home Worship: May 16, 2021

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

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Amen.

Hymn: *Christ Is the World's Light*, United Methodist Hymnal #188

Psalm Lesson: Psalm 1 (CEB)

New Testament Lesson: Acts 1:12-16 and 21-26 (CEB)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *See How Great a Flame Aspires*, United Methodist Hymnal #541

Reflect:

1. Have you ever been asked to help carry on the work that someone else has started? What were the challenges of that and what were the blessings that you found in that?
2. The world can be a very difficult place. Sometimes it is difficult to live into our hopefulness. How do you find hope each and every day?
3. What signs of hope do you see in the people around you and in the world around you?

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Hope of the World*, United Methodist Hymnal #178

Closing Prayer: Holy God, bless us as we go from this place that we might be witnesses to your gospel and messengers of your love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Christ Is the World's Light
United Methodist Hymnal #188

Christ is the world's light,
Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the
Father: Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's Peace,
Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life,
Christ and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our
brother;
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the
Father: Glory to God on high!

*"Christ Is the World's Light" words by Fred Pratt
Green, 1968; music Paris Antiphoner, 1681;
harm. by David Evans, 1927. Words © 1969 Hope
Publishing Co.; harm. by permission of Oxford
University Press.*

Psalm 1 (CEB)

The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked
advice, doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and
doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

Instead of doing those things, these persons love
the Lord's Instruction, and they recite God's
Instruction day and night!

They are like a tree replanted by streams of
water, which bears fruit at just the right time and
whose leaves don't fade. Whatever they do
succeeds.

That's not true for the wicked! They are like dust
that the wind blows away. And that's why the
wicked will have no standing in the court of
justice—neither will sinners in the assembly of
the righteous.

The Lord is intimately acquainted with the way of
the righteous, but the way of the wicked is
destroyed.

Acts 1:12-16 and 21-26 (CEB)

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the
Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a
sabbath day's journey away. When they
entered the city, they went to the upstairs
room where they were staying. Peter, John,
James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas;
Bartholomew and Matthew; James,
Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas,
James' son— all were united in their devotion
to prayer, along with some women, including
Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

During this time, the family of believers was a
company of about one hundred twenty
persons. Peter stood among them and
said, "Brothers and sisters, the scripture that
the Holy Spirit announced beforehand
through David had to be fulfilled. This was
the scripture concerning Judas, who became
a guide for those who arrested Jesus.

"Therefore, we must select one of those who
have accompanied us during the whole time
the Lord Jesus lived among us, beginning
from the baptism of John until the day when
Jesus was taken from us. This person must
become along with us a witness to his
resurrection." So they nominated two: Joseph
called Barsabbas, who was also known as
Justus, and Matthias.

They prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's
deepest thoughts and desires. Show us
clearly which one you have chosen from
among these two to take the place of this
ministry and apostleship, from which Judas
turned away to go to his own place." When
they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was
added to the eleven apostles.

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from
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See How Great a Flame Aspires
United Methodist Hymnal #541

See how great a flame aspires,
kindled by a spark of grace.
Jesus' love the nations fires,
sets the kingdoms on a blaze.
To bring fire on earth he came,
kindled in some hearts it is;
O that all might catch the flame,
all partake the glorious bliss!

When he first the work begun,
small and feeble was his day;
now the Word doth swiftly run,
now it wins its widening way;
more and more it spreads and grows,
ever mighty to prevail;
sin's strongholds it now o'erthrows,
shakes the trembling gates of hell.

Saints of God, your Savior praise,
who the door hath opened wide;
he hath given the word of grace,
Jesus' word is glorified;
Jesus mighty to redeem,
who alone the work hath wrought;
worthy is the work of him,
him who spake a world from naught.

Saw ye not the cloud arise,
little as a human hand?
Now it spreads along the skies,
hangs o'er all the thirsty land.
Lo! the promise of a shower
drops already from above;
but the Lord will shortly pour
all the spirit of his love.

*"See How Great a Flame Aspires" words by
Charles Wesley, 1749; music is Welsh
melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963;
harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press*

Hope of the World
United Methodist Hymnal #178

Hope of the world,
thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming
passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are
spent.

Hope of the world,
God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter
strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of
light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting
byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world,
who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair,
from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou
wilt.

Hope of the world,
O Christ o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and
pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.

*"Hope of the World" Georgia Harkness, 1954;
music by V. Earle Copes, 1963. Words ©
1954, renewed 1982 The Hymn Society of
America; music © 1963 Abingdon Press*