

MUMC At-Home Worship: July 4, 2021

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

Opening Prayer

Holy God, our guide and guardian: you have led us away from the busy world into the quiet of your presence. Grant that our time in this space might comfort our souls as it renews our spirits, that we may worship you in word and deed all the days of our lives. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn *This Is My Song* United Methodist Hymnal #437

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

"This Is My Song" Sts. 1,2 by Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3 by Georgia Harkness, ca. 1939; music by Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from The Hymnal, 1933. Sts. 1,2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co.; st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Co.; arr. © 1933, renewed 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

Scripture Lesson

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 (NRSV)

David Anointed King of All Israel

5 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. ² For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.” ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵ At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

⁹ David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. ¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

Mark 6:1-13 (NRSV)

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary^[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense^[b] at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Reflect:

1. What are the qualities or characteristics of a good leader? Which leaders have you trusted and why?
2. Have you ever found yourself holding an opinion of someone that was not shared by the people around you? Does a commonly held opinion always imply that that opinion is correct?
3. Jesus' hometown people were "repulsed" by him, according to the Gospel reading. Why do you think it was so easy for them to dismiss the things that Jesus was saying to them?

Hymn *For the Healing of the Nations* United Methodist Hymnal #428

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,
earth its destiny may find.

"For the Healing of the Nations" words by Fred Kaan 1965; music by John Hughes, 1907. Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations* United Methodist Hymnal #569

We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

Chorus:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noon-day bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. (Chorus)

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. (Chorus)

We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God. (Chorus)

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" words and music by H. Ernest Nichol, 1896; both are in the public domain.

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)