

MUMC At-Home Worship: July 11, 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 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* United Methodist Hymnal #75

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why! the LORD our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” Words attr. to William Kethe, 1561; music attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551. Both are in the public domain.

Scripture Lesson

John 1:1-5 and 9-14 (CEB)

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through

the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

2 Samuel 7:1-14a (CEB)

When the king was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!" Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the Lord is with you."

But that very night the Lord's word came to Nathan: Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple?

So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the Lord of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

And the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make a dynasty for you. When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me. Whenever he does wrong, I will discipline him with a human rod, with blows from human beings.

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

Reflect:

1. Where is the place where you have felt the most “at home?” Why is that so? What are the qualities of that place that make you feel at home? And are there multiple places that make you feel that way?
2. Where do you feel God’s presence most profoundly?
3. Do you have a different experience of worship depending on the setting? Is there a different experience of worship in a large cathedral rather than a tiny country church, for example? What is it that makes church a holy experience?

Hymn *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* United Methodist Hymnal #203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” words by James Montgomery, 1821; music is Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868. Both are in the public domain.

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

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn *Take My Life, and Let It Be* United Methodist Hymnal #399

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,

“Take My Life, and Let It Be” words by Frances R. Havergal, 1873; music by Louis J. F. Héroid, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839; 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)