

MUMC At-Home Worship: August 15, 2021

Dear friends, it has been a tremendous joy to worship with you using the at-home guides all throughout these last months! With the transition back to in-person worship, we have seen the desire for at-home worship guides decrease and have made the decision not to offer new at-home guides after August 22. If you plan to continue worshipping from home, I encourage you to reuse old at-home guides, which we would be happy to send to you or can be found on our website! We will also discontinue use of the Sermon-By-Phone line at the same time. Sermons can still be watched on our website and heard on our podcast, and I can assist you in accessing either. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Now ... let's worship! ~ Pastor Dillon

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 *O Worship the King* United Methodist Hymnal #73

O worship the King, all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

“O Worship the King” Words by Robert Grant, 1833; music attr. to Johann Michael Haydn; arr. by William Gardiner, 1815; and all are in the public domain.

Scripture Lesson

Mark 9:14-29 (CEB)

When Jesus, Peter, James, and John approached the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them and legal experts arguing with them. Suddenly the whole crowd caught sight of Jesus. They ran to greet him, overcome with excitement. Jesus asked them, “What are you arguing about?”

Someone from the crowd responded, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, since he has a spirit that doesn’t allow him to speak. Wherever it overpowers him, it throws him into a fit. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and stiffens up. So I spoke to your disciples to see if they could throw it out, but they couldn’t.” Jesus answered them, “You faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me.”

They brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a fit. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been going on?” He said, “Since he was a child. It has often thrown him into a fire or into water trying to kill him. If you can do anything, help us! Show us compassion!” Jesus said to him, “If you can do anything? All things are possible for the one who has faith.” At that the boy’s father cried out, “I have faith; help my lack of faith!”

Noticing that the crowd had surged together, Jesus spoke harshly to the unclean spirit, “Mute and deaf spirit, I command you to come out of him and never enter him again.” After screaming and shaking the boy horribly, the spirit came out. The boy seemed to be dead; in fact, several people said that he had died. But Jesus took his hand, lifted him up, and he arose.

After Jesus went into a house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we throw this spirit out?” Jesus answered, “Throwing this kind of spirit out requires prayer.”

Reflect:

1. This final exorcism of Mark’s gospel has some similarities and differences to earlier passages, including the possessed man whose story was read in last week’s worship (Mark 5:1-20). What is similar between the two accounts? What is different? What elements of this week’s story stand out after comparing it to the previous story?

2. The father of the possessed child in this story responds to Jesus by saying, "I have faith; help my lack of faith!" Has this contradictory statement ever felt true in your own faith journey? What might this teach us about embodying our faith?
3. Jesus' response to the disciples is not that they didn't pray hard enough or in the right way but rather that they simply did not pray and should have. Why might the disciples have forgotten to pray? What might this teach us about the practice of faith?

Hymn *Sweet Hour of Prayer* United Methodist Hymnal #496

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" words by William Walford, 1845; music by William B. Bradbury, 1861; and both are in the public domain.

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn *We Are Marching* The Faith We Sing #2235-b

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching, marching,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are living in the love of God,
We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

We are living, living,
We are living, living,
We are living in the love of God,
(Repeat)

We are moving in the power of God,
We are moving in the power of God,
(Repeat)
We are moving, moving,
We are moving, moving,
We are moving in the power of God.
(Repeat)

“We Are Marching” words and music are from South Africa (20th cent.) © 1984 Utryck, used with permission of Walton Music Corp.

Closing Prayer: Almighty God, we believe; help our unbelief! Teach us to dismantle our assumptions and challenge our assurances that we might learn to lean on honest prayers for help. In the name of Christ, who welcomes all, we pray. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)