



# Prelude Video

<https://youtu.be/qt6-7PNFFHo>

## Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:27-31

Remain seated as we turn to the prophet Isaiah for our Call to Worship. The words are both in your bulletin and upon the screen. Note that there are words which only I speak. Some lines are for those of you on the left (your left) side of the sanctuary. Other lines are for those of you on the right (your right) side of the sanctuary. And still other words are for all of us together. Before we finish, I will invite you to stand. Do so as you are able... Shall we begin?...

One: Why do you say?

Left: "My way is hidden from the Lord.

Right: God doesn't care."

One: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**All: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

Left: He does not faint or grow weary;

Right: his understanding is beyond human reach.

Left: He gives power to the faint,

Right: and strengthens the powerless.

Left: Even youth will faint and be weary,

Right: and the young will fall exhausted;

One: Please rise as you are able. *(pause until folks are standing)*

One: but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**All: they shall fly up with wings like eagles,**

One: they shall run and not be weary,

**All: they shall walk and not faint.**

compiled from various translations

*(guitar begins intro as these words are spoken by worship leader)*

With "wings like eagles," let your voice soar as we try to sing of and to our amazing, indescribable God.

Song of Praise

**"Indescribable"**

# A Handy Prayer

Let's pray with our eyes open, looking – each of us – at our own **hands**. Try acting the words out with your **hands** as this prayer moves from confession to forgiveness. We thus open ourselves to the One who sees beyond our **hands**, deep into our heart and loves us the same. Let's pray...

God you created our hands beautiful and capable but...

Too often we use them to grab what we want

We ball them up into fists to hit.

We use them to hug only ourselves.

We hide them behind our backs pretending  
there is nothing we could do to help  
when we know there is.

So, we turn our hands up to you asking for forgiveness.

Forgive all the bad we have done with our hands.

Wash our hands and make them clean.

Lead us to use our hands well.

Teach us to open our hands to share with others.

Give us the power to shake hands with our neighbors.

Show us how to join hands with our neighbors  
to build your kingdom of love.

We pray in Jesus' name and remembering his loving hands.

Amen

prayer by Carolyn C. Brown,  
a retired minister of Christian Education  
in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA),  
from her blog, "Worshiping With Children"

# Highlighting our Helping Up Mission

(Ginger Berninger)

In prayer, we have just asked God to "show us how to join hands with our neighbors to build your kingdom of love." As a member of the Church Witness Commission, I will share a way we can do that this month thru the *Helping Up Mission*.

*Helping Up Mission* provides comprehensive faith based recovery services for men fighting addiction, poverty, and homelessness in Greater Baltimore. It is a community of Hope that provides not only food and shelter but also programs to help the men become responsible members of society. The overnight guest services include dinner and breakfast, toiletries for showering, clean clothes, an evening chapel message, and a bed to sleep in. The 12-step spiritual recovery program is implemented in a seeds of hope phase (days 1 to 45), an alpha phase for personal and spiritual growth (days 46 to 105), an omega phase for healthy living, education, career help, fellowship, and relapse prevention (days 106 to 195), a life preparation phase for education, employment accountability, health, and long term spiritual growth (days 196 to 365), and finally a spiritual recovery program graduation. Fund raising is underway to develop a program for women as well.

Last Sunday you were given a plastic bag for *Helping Up Mission* and an insert in the bulletin with health and clothing items to donate to this mission. Please bring in the filled bags before the end of February and place in the wooden box in the back, specially made by our good friend and brother Ray Smyth. If you need another copy of the list of items for donation please write your email address on the sheet on the table and one will be mailed to you. If you need another *Helping Up Mission* bag, please see Grace Miller or myself.

# Returning our Tithes and Offerings

Listen to these words from the Psalmist:

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.  
How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- <sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.
- <sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.
- <sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD sustains the humble  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- <sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.
- <sup>8</sup> He covers the sky with clouds;  
he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.
- <sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they call.
- <sup>10</sup> His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;
- <sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Psalm 147:1-11 from the *New International Version*®, NIV®  
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®  
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

As you return your tithes and offerings just now,  
prepare to sing your grateful praise to the Lord with #584 in  
your hymnal.

Ushers, please come forward to serve.

## Offertory

“They that wait upon the Lord”

Hymn #584

## Thanksgiving Prayer

We know, O Lord, that “waiting” involves more than doing nothing. A “waiter” in a restaurant is hardly inactive. These low paid workers have an important ministry of hospitality. May we learn from them about serving... Bless these offerings we’ve placed in the plate, O God who lifts up and serves those who have fallen. Thank you for inviting us to wait, and to serve ... in Jesus’ name. Amen

Sharing a joy, a concern,  
a word of testimony or praise

Hymn #596

“And I will raise you up”

*[Before singing, invite children/youth forward & teach them the following motions to lead congregation. Or just lead the congregation in this. Sing this chorus at least 3 times, or sing it in the context of the entire song, with a soloist on the verses.]*

“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,

*Lift up hands then gently flap arms like wings*

Bear you on the breath of dawn,

*Bring hands together in front of mouth  
and blow like blowing dandelions*

Make you to shine like the sun,

*Hands out to the side of smiling face*

And hold you in the palm of my Hand.”

*Hold hands out palms up*

as suggested by Carolyn C. Brown,  
from her blog, “Worshiping With Children”

# Through the doorway of Prayer

With you, O Lord,  
we step through many doors into the homes and lives  
of persons we know,  
as well as those who are only a name  
or a face  
or a shared concern.

You draw us into their circumstances,  
and plant within us the seeds of compassion.  
Thus, we grow to care about them -  
sometimes painfully so,  
especially when it seems there is nothing  
we can do to help,  
or that the answer to their need  
is hidden from our eyes.

How can we pray when we don't even know  
for what we should pray?  
And yet, you walk through that door before us,  
and your hand reaches out.  
Before words come to our lips, you are there.  
And our prayers recognize your presence,  
even in the midst  
of the most difficult situations.

It is your hand which raises up those who have fallen  
upon the wings of eagles.

It is your hand that gently but firmly transforms persons  
from patient  
or victim  
or refugee  
or addict  
or lost one  
or problem  
to someone who can stand

and freely give of themselves to others,  
shining like the sun.

It is by your hand that slaves are freed,  
debts are forgiven,  
personal demons are cast out,  
the broken are made whole,  
the homeless are given a place,  
enemies are reconciled,  
chains are broken,  
love is reborn.

All that is within us yearns for this,  
our Savior and Lord,  
that your kingdom would come,  
your will be done on earth  
in the lives of those  
we have remembered  
in our sharing this day,  
as it is in heaven.

Such is our prayer,  
aware that you are standing at our own door  
ready to be invited in.  
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

(previously used 02-08-2015)

Gospel for 3 readers  
Mark 1:29-39

Reader #1 (Edna):

<sup>29</sup> After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

Reader #2 (Jeff):

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered near the door. <sup>34</sup> He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

Reader #3 (Meghan):

<sup>35</sup> Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. <sup>36</sup> Simon and those with him tracked him down. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." <sup>39</sup> He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

Copyright © 2011 by *Common English Bible*

Message

*"From Ailing to Serving"*

## A Commissioning

On the back of your bulletin, also projected upon the screen, is a prayer of commissioning. Please rise as you are able, and let us pray it together, hearing our own voices sending us forth...

Sending God,

You have entrusted us with a commission. Just as you spoke to Abram and Ananias and the first disciples, so you tell us: "Go."

You remind us that the good news cannot be contained, but always seeks to reach people right where they are, in every holy space – the muck and the mire, the palaces of the wealthy, the jail cell.

Tighten our shoelaces and walk alongside us. Make us ready for your service.

Send us out in the name of Jesus, the One who set the course.

Amen.

By Angela Finet, pastor  
Nokesville, VA Church of the Brethren  
from Church of the Brethren *Living Word* bulletin  
© 2018 Brethren Press.

Remain standing and join in our final hymn, hearing God speak a benediction to us through the words.

Sending Hymn #433

*"Go, my children"*

Postlude