

Gathered together to worship God

Announcements

Beginning with Praise (9:50 am)

“They that wait upon the Lord”

Prelude

They that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up
with wings as eagles.
They shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
Teach me, Lord,
teach me, Lord, to wait.

Hymnal #584
By Stuart Hamblen, 1953
text and music copyright © 1953,
renewed 1981 Hamblen Music Co.

Call to Worship

Rise in body or spirit
and join in the Call to Worship
#821 in your hymnal
as well as projected upon the screen.
Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God!

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Psalm 100 - Hymnal #821
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Hymn #50→
text based upon Psalm 148,
adapted by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1871, alt.
music by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1893

“Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah”

1. Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah,
from the heavens praise his name!
Praise the Lord, our great creator;
all his angels, praise proclaim.
All his hosts, together praise him,
sun and moon and stars on high.
Praise the Lord, you heavens of heavens,
and you floods above the sky.

refrain: Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah
for his name alone is high,
and his glory is exalted,
and his glory is exalted,
and his glory is exalted,
far above the earth and sky.

2. Let them praise the Lord creator;
they were made at his command.
God established them forever,
his decree shall ever stand.
From the earth O praise your maker,
raging seas, you creatures all,
fire and hail and snow and vapors,
stormy winds that hear his call.....(*refrain*)
3. All you fruitful trees and cedars,
every hill and mountain high,
creeping things and beasts and cattle,
birds that in the heavens fly,
kings of earth and all you people,
rulers great, earth's judges all;
praise his name, young men and women,
aged ones, and children small.....(*refrain*)

Opening Prayer

With horns ablaze
and voices raised
we come, O Lord,
filled with your praise.

This is the hour,
yours in the power,
yours is the love
in to to flower.

Grant us, we pray,
your presence to stay;
Come, Spirit, come,
transform this day.

AMEN

Please be seated.

PLH
written March 30, 1986

Mark 6:6b-13

From a psalm of praise, we turn in God's Word to the Gospel according to Mark. Listen to this paraphrase of when Jesus sent his disciples out for the first time to spread their wings and share good news...

⁷⁻⁸ Jesus called the Twelve to him and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions:

⁸⁻⁹ "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. You are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.

¹⁰ "And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave.

¹¹ "If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way."

¹²⁻¹³ Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

from *The Message*
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Summer Sunday School Activity

The school year is almost over for those in grades 1-12. For our graduates, however, the page has already turned. The time for next steps has come for them. Before we recognize and celebrate this achievement, let's take time for a school assignment, a "Summer Sunday School Activity."

In your bulletin are 3 cards for you to share some "advice" with our 3 graduates. There are several leading statements with a line after them, for you to fill in the blank – such as "I hope you always _____." Don't feel like you have to fill in every line. You can even cross out a statement and insert your own. These are just suggestions that give the rest of us an opportunity to share a blessing with each of our graduates.

If writing is not your "thing," or if you are of younger years, draw something on the back of the cards for each graduate. In either case, write their name at the top. You'll have the rest of this service to accomplish this task. During our final hymn, you'll be invited to bring your cards forward and place in the jars that bear the name of each graduate, and thus share your advice, your blessing. That's your assignment.

Recognizing our Graduates

Two of our three graduates were able to be here this morning. Nicci Smyth King could not make it, but she has written something for me to share in a bit. We'll make sure she receives your cards. We are blessed to have Courtney and Lydia with us. I invite them to come forward.

If you would, please share with us some details of your graduation: like from where, when, or was there anything that was special about the ceremony or even about the ending of your school career? Then tell us a bit of where you're headed from here – your immediate summer plans, the next doors you're hoping to open (like school or work). as well as any long-range dreams you wish to share. Feel free. Which of you would like to go first?

[Meghan will work with Courtney, Pete with Lydia. When each is done, either M or P will share personal words of congratulation and blessing. Also, each will be given the gift of a book chosen for them.]

Courtney and Lydia (& Nicci), as you step forward into the next chapter of your life, may you go with our blessing. Be sure to share your faith with others along the way. It may not be in a formal sense, but as baptized members of this congregation, we send you out into the world to share the good news that is within you. As Jesus said, "*Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. **You** are the equipment.*" Yes, you are enough for whatever the road ahead brings, for God will be with you always. Congregation, say "Amen!" if you agree.

Responding with Offerings

Have any of you started your Summer Sunday School assignment for this morning? As the organ plays and the plates are passed would be a good time to either continue or start this task – writing down your advice and blessing for Courtney, Lydia, and Nicci. There are extra copies of the cards. Let an usher know if you need some.

Some words of wisdom to lead us into our time of giving:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.”*

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Ushers, please guide us.

Offertory

Romans 5:1-8

It was our faith that put us back in the good books with God. We put our trust in Jesus Christ our Lord and we can rest assured that he has cleared up everything with God for us. Christ got us in on the extravagant generosity of God, and that generosity has given us a safe place to plant our feet. We don't just stand there, though. We hold our heads up high and announce, with pride, that we confidently expect to be sharing the glory that is coming to God. Actually, it's not just what's coming in the future that makes us feel so good. Even now, when life seems to be giving us a raw deal, we can stand proud. We know that going through suffering can make us tough enough to survive the worst of times. This ability to tough things through will in turn generate new depths of integrity and maturity within us. And that brings us full-circle because it is this integrity and maturity that gives us our confidence about the future. Our confidence is not in vain either. We are sure about that because of what we have already experienced: a flood of love surging into our hearts from the Holy Spirit who God has given to us.

Christ got us on track at the cost of his own life. He did it right when we most needed it; when we were way off course and too weak to ever get ourselves back. It's hard to believe, but true. You rarely hear of people putting their lives on the line for others, even for innocent children. Perhaps we might be able to imagine finding the courage to die for someone who we deeply admired and loved. But if you need proof of how much God loves us, just look at what Christ did. While we were still showing no signs of ever offering God anything but contempt, Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us.

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

“And I will raise you up”

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Congregation: “And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge,
God's faithfulness your shield.
3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day.
Though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.
4. For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways.
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Hymnal #596
text based on Psalm 91,
by Michael Joncas
©1979 OCP Publications

Prayer

O God who shelters under your wing those who come to you for help, hear your people as we pray. Yes, you know our concerns before we even give voice to them. Your response is already on the way by the time we even know how or for what to ask. Still, the give and take, the cry and embrace, the ask and receive of our walk with you is what makes this a relationship grounded in your love.

Thank you for how you have proved faithful in the past; and thank you in advance for all you will do in the future – a tomorrow that may be a mystery to us now but is held in your hand and heart, ready to unfold. Thank you for picking us up when we fall, for we are prone to slip and slide as we walk by faith. And in the roughest of times, thank you for lifting us off the ground and helping us to fly.

Of course, O Lord, we know that flying is not without its risks. In the depths of our being lies a fear of falling. There also resides our deepest sense of trust, that all is well even in the most frightening of moments, because you are God – who made and makes us still, who saved and saves us still, who has blown through our lives with power in the past and who will be the wind under our wings in days to come.

You have heard what we have shared openly. You have also heard what we did not or could not say out loud. Yes, our faith matters as we ask, seek, and knock. But your faithfulness is greater. Our heartfelt trust begins and ends with you.

Therefore, may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, as how our words and thought become faith action, be pleasing to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. AMEN

Exodus 19:1-8

¹⁻² Three months after leaving Egypt the Israelites entered the Wilderness of Sinai. They followed the route from Rephidim, arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai, and set up camp. Israel camped there facing the mountain.

³⁻⁶ As Moses went up to meet God, GOD called down to him from the mountain: "Speak to the House of Jacob, tell the People of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.'

"This is what I want you to tell the People of Israel."

⁷ Moses came back and called the elders of Israel together and set before them all these words which GOD had commanded him.

⁸ The people were unanimous in their response: "Everything GOD says, we will do." Moses took the people's answer back to GOD.

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Message

"Learning to Fly"

"Go, my children"

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.
4. I, the Lord, will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I, the Lord, will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I, the Lord, will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, & Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Hymnal #433
Text copyright © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda
Sung to a Welsh folk melody

Benediction

Leader: We came to worship.

People: We go now to serve.

Leader: We have been given the light.

People: We go now to let it shine.

Leader: We have been blessed by God's love.

People: We go now to share it.

Leader: We are Christ's disciples.

People: We go now to witness to all.

#763, by Jimmy R. Ross,
from *We Gather Together*,
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Postlude