

Good Morning Church!

NORTH BEND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Because God is worthy we worship

**indicates to stand, if able*

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

TRAM: All Non-perishable food, personal care, and household items are welcome. **Special needs this week: canned fruit, grape jelly, chicken noodle soup, bars of soap.**

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: As you walk with us, as we journey together,

People: Lord, your word fills our hearts!

Leader: As you speak with us, as your love is revealed,

People: Lord, your fire burns in our hearts!

Leader: As we proclaim what we have seen and heard,

People: may all people be drawn to you, the risen Lord!

***Singing**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

UMH #327

(v. 1, 2, 4)

**1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.**

**Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,**

**and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

**4. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together²**

**Gracious God, you have given yourself to us in the person of
Jesus. We have his example of loving ministry as a guide for
our lives. We stand as people forgiven and reconciled to you.
Be with us this day. Remind us that you are always near.
Guide our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Anthem

Reading the Scripture

Ephesians 2:11-22 (MSG)

2:11 But don't take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God's ways

12 had no idea of any of this, didn't know the first thing about the way God works, hadn't the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God's covenants and promises in Israel, hadn't a clue about what God was doing in the world at large.

- 13 Now because of Christ - dying that death, shedding that blood - you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything.
- 14 The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance.
- 15 He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.
- 16 Christ brought us together through his death on the Cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility.
- 17 Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders.
- 18 He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.
- 19 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all - irrespective of how we got here - in what he

- is building.
- 20 He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's
using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with
Christ Jesus as the cornerstone
- 21 that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day
after day - a holy temple built by God,
- 22 all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

Rise Above Religious Walls

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

UMH # 430

(v. 1, 4)

**1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**4. In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

¹ From "The Abingdon Worship Annual," edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press.

² From "Worship Connection: April 23, 2023," by Nancy C. Townley, *ministrymatters.com*.