

Good Morning Church!

NORTH BEND CHURCH

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Because God is worthy we worship

**indicates to stand, if able*

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

Three Rivers Collection: We have been asked to collect dry-erase markers for Three Rivers School's back-to-school event. Dry-erase markers of all colors are needed. We need to have the markers collected by July 30th.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: We gather this day to worship!

People: But we bring with us heavy burdens which weigh us down.

Leader: We gather this day to praise God!

People: But our hearts ache inside us and we feel we can go no further.

Leader: Come all who are burdened and who feel weighed down.
Come to Jesus.

**People: Lord Jesus, take our burdens and heal our spirits.
Amen.**

***Singing**

Joy to the World

UMH #246

(vs 1, 4)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

**Lord of peace and hope, we open our hearts to you this day.
Be with us as we hear your words of inspiration and healing.
Guide our hearts and spirits as we seek to be witnesses to
your redeeming and reconciling love. In Jesus' Name, we
offer this prayer. 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

As the Deer

**As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my hearts desire
and I long to worship You.**

Chorus

**You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.**

**I want You more than gold and silver
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
And on You I can rely.**

You're my friend and You are my brother

**Even though You are the King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything.**

Chorus

**You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.**

Reading the Scripture

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

25:1 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our

- lamps are going out.'
- 9 " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
- 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
- 11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'
- 12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'
- 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

Hard Faith: Perseverance

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH # 117

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,**

Spirit divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and
changeless be,
a living fire!

GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD

***Receiving the Blessing**

Postlude

¹ From "Worship Connection: July 9, 2023" by Nancy C. Townley, *ministrymatters.com*.