

Good Morning!

# *North Bend Church*

*a Global Methodist Congregation*

Sunday, February 16, 2025

*Because God is worthy we worship*

## **GATHERING AND WELCOME**

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Samaritan's Purse just shared a 2024 special report on Operation Christmas Child, noting 11.9 million shoeboxes were prayerfully packed and collected from 11 countries. You can read it at the address listed in your bulletin.

The report spotlights stories of "answered prayers" with both needed items and joyful surprises. For example,

- A mother had wanted to buy a special gift (a toy car) after her son's surgery, but the cost of surgery and medications made that impossible. A toy car showed up in his shoebox.
- A girl in Peru prayed for new coloring markers, as her parents couldn't afford to buy them. They were in her box.
- A group of kids in Kenya started a soccer club, even though they didn't have supplies. They'd kick around whatever they

could find. When shoeboxes were opened, nearly every child in that group had received a soccer ball.

- Another child really loves to learn and prayed to receive a calculator to help him in his advanced studies. He found a calculator inside his shoebox gift.
- One 8-year-old was especially thrilled to get a pair of sandals that fit his grandmother who has trouble walking because of pain in her legs and feet. With these shoes, she is now able to walk to church with her grandson.

An especially inspiring story comes from a remote village in Ghana where 11-year-old Epiphani received a shoebox filled with special presents, but when she met Daniel who was from a more severely impoverished family, she decided he needed the treasures more than she did.

She told him about Christ, prayed over him and invited him to church. Daniel accepted and, ultimately, repented his sins and gave his life to Christ. This is their story:

Video: <https://youtu.be/JlT0aDYRgVo?si=GuNt-mjJZyaXiYcv>

*(Are there any other Announcements?)*

## COME BEFORE THE LORD

### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Get ready! A miraculous thing is about to happen!

**People: What is this!**

Leader: The powerful light of Jesus will transform your lives!

**People: But we are unworthy to receive this light.**

Leader: Jesus himself has proclaimed you worthy and beloved.

Come, and live in the light.

**People: Praise be to God and to Jesus Christ who has healed  
and redeemed us. Amen.**

### **\*Singing**

*We Gather Together*

UMH #131

(vs. 1, 2, 3)

**1. We gather together  
to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens  
his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing  
now cease  
from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name;  
he forgets not his own.**

**2. Beside us to guide us,  
our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining  
his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning  
the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord,  
wast at our side,  
all glory be thine!**

**3. We all do extol thee,  
thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that  
thou still  
our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation  
escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised!  
O Lord, make us free!**

**PRAY UNTO THE LORD**

**\*Praying Together<sup>1</sup>**

**The darkness of winter has been our companion, Lord. Now the days are lengthening. Bring your light to us, that we might see your glory and may work for you, offering hope and peace to this world. We ask this, in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

**Joys & Concerns**

**Silent & Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Anthem**

**Blessing of Offerings**

**\*Singing**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      UMH #95

**Praise God, from whom  
all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures  
here below;  
praise him above,  
ye heavenly host;  
praise Father,  
Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## Reading the Scripture

Jeremiah 17:1-11 (NIV)

- 17:1 “Judah’s sin is engraved with an iron tool, inscribed with a flint point, on the tablets of their hearts and on the horns of their altars.
- 2 Even their children remember their altars and Asherah poles beside the spreading trees and on the high hills.
- 3 My mountain in the land and your wealth and all your treasures I will give away as plunder, together with your high places, because of sin throughout your country.
- 4 Through your own fault you will lose the inheritance I gave you. I will enslave you to your enemies in a land you do not know, for you have kindled my anger, and it will burn forever.”
- 5 This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.
- 6 That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.
- 7 “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.
- 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its

roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

11 Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay are those who gain riches by unjust means. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Proclaiming the Gospel**

*Macho Man*

**RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD**

**\*Singing**

*Amazing Grace*

UMH #378

(1, 2, 3, 6)

**1. Amazing grace!**

**How sweet the sound**

that saved a  
wretch like me!  
I once was lost,  
but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught  
my heart to fear,  
and grace my  
fears relieved;  
how precious did  
that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers,  
toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought  
me safe thus far,  
and grace will  
lead me home.

6. When we've been there  
ten thousand years,



**bright shining  
as the sun,  
we've no less days  
to sing God's praise  
than when  
we'd first begun.**

**GO IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD**

**\*Receiving the Blessing**

**Postlude**

**\*Singing**

*What A Beautiful Name*

Hillsong Worship

**You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God, the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You, our Christ**

**What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King  
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus**

**Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave  
The Heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again**

**You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God, You reign  
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory  
Yours is the Name above all names**

**What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King  
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus**

*<sup>1</sup>From "Worship Connection: February 11, 2024," by Nancy C. Townley, [ministrymatters.com](http://ministrymatters.com)*