

Good Morning!

North Bend Church

a Global Methodist Congregation

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Because God is worthy we worship

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Prelude

Announcements

TRIP TO ARK ENCOUNTER: Anyone interested is invited to join our churchwide outing to the Ark Encounter on Saturday, June 7. For more information or to sign up, see the table at the back of the church. If you have questions, please talk with Lisa Gebhart, our activities director, 513-203-3587.

(Are there any other Announcements?)

COME BEFORE THE LORD

***Call to Worship¹**

Leader: Spring is about to break forth!

People: In all the land, new life is happening!

Leader: Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy

People: Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.

Leader: Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

People: Let us open our hearts, our spirits, our souls, to God's lavish love. Amen.

***Singing**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH #117

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

**1. O God, our help
in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from
the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!**

**2. Under the shadow
of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;**

sufficient is thine
arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills
in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting,
thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages,
in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch
that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an
ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten,
as a dream

dies at the opening day.

**6. O God, our help
in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide
while life shall last,
and our eternal home.**

PRAY UNTO THE LORD

***Praying Together¹**

We have many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Silent & Pastoral 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

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

- 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
- 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you

have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclaiming the Gospel

Be Strong Through The Struggle

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Confession and Pardon

UMH p. 12

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(All pray in silent confession)

Leader to people:

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Everyone:

Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving UMH p. 13

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and

said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

All: 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.

Giving the Bread and the Cup

RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

***Singing**

It Is Well with My Soul

UMH #377

(vs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

**1. When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
when sorrows
like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot,
thou hast taught
me to say,
It is well,
it is well with my soul.**

Refrain:

**It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well,
it is well with my soul.**

**2. Though Satan
should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest
assurance control,
that Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,**

**and hath shed
his own blood
for my soul.**

Refrain:

**It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well,
it is well with my soul.**

**3. My sin, oh, the bliss
of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part
but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord,
praise the Lord,
O my soul!**

Refrain:

**It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)**

it is well,
it is well with my soul.

4. And, Lord, haste the day
when my faith
shall be sight,
the clouds be
rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
even so,
it is well
with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well,
it is well with my soul.

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

¹From "Worship Connection: April 6, 2025," by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com