

Monday, December 14, 2020

+ OPENING CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

O God, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
we praise your name, O God.

+ REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

By Word and water God renews us this day
in the living fountain of God's grace,
and raises us with Christ Jesus
to live a new life in the Spirit.

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**Satisfy us in the morning
with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

+ MORNING HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel.
The darkness of this earth dispel.
Bring light and justice here below
that we in paths of righteousness may go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to earth; let love dispel all fear.

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+ MORNING PRAYER

The Holy One be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and
for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing
you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect
freedom of your service, that at eventide we may again
give thanks unto you. **Amen.**

[UM Book of Worship]

+ Psalm 125 NRSV

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.**

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.

³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

⁴ Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,

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and to those who are upright in their hearts.

⁵ But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel!

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD**: Ephesians 6:10-17 CEB

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength. ¹¹ Put on God's armor so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil. ¹² We aren't fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens. ¹³ Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. ¹⁴ So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your

breastplate, ¹⁵ and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. ¹⁶ Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

We bless you, Adonai, God of *Israel*,
for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.
You have brought forth a strong *De-liverer*
in the house of your child *David*.

**This is what your holy prophets an-nounced:
deliverance from enemies
and from the hand of all who hate *us*;
mercy a-mong our *ancestors*,
and remembrance of your ho-ly *covenant*.**

This is the promise you swore to
our an-cestor, *Abraham*,

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to make us un-a-fraid,
to rescue us from our *enemies*,
to serve before you, holy and just,
all the days of our *lives*.

**And this, my little child,
shall be called prophet of the Most *High*,
going before you, Adonai, to pre-*pare* your *paths*,
making your people know *de-liverance*
by the forgiveness of their *sins*.**

**Through your merciful compassions, God our *God*,
the dawn from on high shall *visit us*,
to shine on those kept in dungeons
and the shadows of *death*
and to guide our feet onto the path of *peace*.**

LUKE 1:68-79

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

+ **COMMEMORATION: JOHN OF THE CROSS**

“Juan de Ypes was born into poverty on June 24, 1542 at
Fontiveros, near Avila, Spain. He was educated by the
Jesuits at Medina del Campo (where he worked as a nurse

to support himself), and later went to the University of
Salamanca, as a novice of the calced (shoe-wearing)
Carmelite order. At Salamanca he studied theology and was
ordained a priest in 1567. He became active in the reforms
of the Carmelite order led by Teresa of Avila, and in 1568
became one of the first two men to become discalced
Carmelite friars. To show his dedication to the ideals of the
Teresian reform he took the name Juan de la Cruz (John of
the Cross). John became a leader in the reform movement
and held important positions within the reformed order. In
December of 1577, the reform was halted and John was
arrested by his fellow Carmelites. When he refused to
renounce the reform he was held in solitary confinement for
nine months. He escaped, however, and migrated to a
reformed monastery in southern Spain. He died in obscurity
on this date in 1591, at Ubede in Andalusia.”

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: JOHN OF THE CROSS**

O God, by whose grace your servant John of the Cross,
kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a

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shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. [by James Kiefer](#)

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

Let us pray: *(pray for those on your heart today)*

+ **FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL**

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

+ **PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE**

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their

solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ **PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

+ **COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

+ CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father,
You have brought us in safety to this new day:
preserve us with your mighty power,
that we may not fall into sin,
nor be overcome by adversity;
and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your
purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL GAELIC PRAYER)

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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