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Tuesday, December 22, 2020

+ MORNING 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. * OS�
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, thou wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to earth; let love dispel all fear.

OSL

+ MORNING PRAYER

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

Let us pray:
Dawn from on high,
Your light illumines all our days.
Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.
Be merciful in us for the sake of others.
Make us fearless when confronting injustice and need,
that we may give you glory in the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

+ Luke 1:46-55 CEV

⁴⁶ Mary said:
With all my heart
I praise the Lord,
⁴⁷ and I am glad
because of God my Savior.
⁴⁸ He cares for me,
his humble servant.
From now on,
all people will say
God has blessed me.
⁴⁹ God All-Powerful has done

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great things for me,
and his name is holy.

⁵⁰ He always shows mercy
to everyone
who worships him.

⁵¹ The Lord has used
his powerful arm
to scatter those
who are proud.

⁵² He drags strong rulers
from their thrones
and puts humble people
in places of power.

⁵³ God gives the hungry
good things to eat,
and sends the rich away
with nothing.

⁵⁴ He helps his servant Israel
and is always merciful
to his people.

⁵⁵ The Lord made this promise
to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his family
forever!

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

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ WORD: **Hebrews 8:1-13** NRSV

⁸ Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." ⁶ But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one.

⁸ God finds fault with them when he says:

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“The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of
Israel
and with the house of Judah;
⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors,
on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out
of the land of Egypt;
for they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant that I will make with the house of
Israel
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹¹ And they shall not teach one another
or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord,’
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.”

¹³ In speaking of “a new covenant,” he has made the first one
obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old will soon
disappear.

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*,
to make us un-a-*fraid*,

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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 NEWTON**

“John Newton was born in London, England on July 24, 1725 and died in that same city on this day in 1807. He is best known for hymn writing, especially the widely known and much loved words to the hymn we know as “Amazing Grace.”

Here was a person whose life was a strong witness to God's grace. His early life was spent at sea, including participation in the slave trade. During this time he had several experiences which eventually led him to Christ. The book *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis, found on board a ship, was Newton's initial impetus to a changed way of life. Secondly, as recorded in his journal, his “great deliverance” came about as he experienced complete despair of survival during a storm at sea. His words, “Lord, have mercy on us,” first were uttered at a time of crisis and later, upon reflection, he considered God's grace was beginning to change his life.

He met and became friends with both George Whitefield and John Wesley, while living in Liverpool following his years at sea. His life continued to be led to Christ and to further his education Newton studied Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He began a journey to ordination that included first being rejected by the Archbishop of York; but followed with success from a request made to the Bishop of Lincoln.

During his ministry he preached in Olney, where he met poet William Cowper. Together, Newton and Cowper held prayer meetings for which they set out to write a new hymn each week. This led to the publication of *Olney Hymns*, the first edition of which appeared in 1779.

Attributed to Newton are hundreds of hymns; among them are the first five verses of “Amazing Grace,” the words to “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken,” “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds,” and “One There Is Above All Others.” The words to each reflect both personal experience and biblical references. Newton’s extensive journals not only record his association with John Wesley and others of the evangelical revival of the time, but also detail his earlier life experiences in the slave trade.

His life is summarized at the beginning of an epitaph he composed for himself:

John Newton, Clerk.
Once an Infidel and Libertine,
A Servant of slaves in Africa,
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior
JESUS CHRIST
Preserved, restored, pardoned,
And appointed to preach the Faith
He had long labored to destroy...”

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: JOHN NEWTON**

Holy Sophia, you have befriended us with John Newton, who waiting patiently beside your doors grew rich in the knowledge of your ways and found in you an intimate friend. So teach all your children your way and your truth, that finding you we may find life. **Amen.**

* For All the Saints

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

+ **PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS**

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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+ PRAYERS for a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of you servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR THE ANSWERING OF PRAYER

Almighty God, who has promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in your Son's Name: We beseech you mercifully to incline your ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to your will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ 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.***

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+ **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**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
holdfast that which is good and shun every evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

UM Book of Worship

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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