

Thursday, May 27, 2021

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

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

PSALM 90:14

* OSL

*** MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

***Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

***For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.***

PSALM 100

*** 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***

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***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]

* **1st READING: Deuteronomy 4:32-40** CEB

³² Now look into it: into days long past, before your time— all the way back to the day God first created human beings on earth, from one end of heaven to the other. Has anything this amazing ever happened? Has anything like it ever been heard of before? ³³ Has any people ever listened to a god's voice speaking out of fire, as each of you have, and survived? ³⁴ Or has any god ever tried to take one nation out of another nation using tests, miracles, wonders, war, a strong hand and outstretched arm, or awesome power like all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt while you watched? ³⁵ You were shown these things so that you would know this: The LORD is the only God. There's no other god except him. ³⁶ From heaven he made you hear his voice in order to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire. You heard his words from that very fire. ³⁷ And because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after

them, God brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his own great power, ³⁸ in order to remove larger and stronger nations from before you and bring you into their land, giving it to you as an inheritance. That's where things stand right now. ³⁹ Know then today and keep in mind that the LORD is the only God in heaven above or on earth below. There is no other. ⁴⁰ Keep the Lord's regulations and his commandments. I'm commanding them to you today for your well-being and for the well-being of your children after you, so that you may extend your time on the fertile land that the LORD your God is giving you forever.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **Psalm 37:1-18** NRSV

***Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.***

¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,

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² for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰ Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not
be there.

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

¹² The wicked plot against the righteous,
and gnash their teeth at them;

¹³ but the LORD laughs at the wicked,
for he sees that their day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to kill those who walk uprightly;

¹⁵ their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.

¹⁶ Better is a little that the righteous person has
than the abundance of many wicked.

¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

¹⁸ The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will abide forever;

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

***Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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* **2nd READING: Luke 16:1-9** CEB

Jesus also said to the disciples, “A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. ² He called the manager in and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.’

³ “The household manager said to himself, What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I’m not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. ⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses.

⁵ “One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He said, ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.’ The manager said to him, ‘Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.’

⁷ Then the manager said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One thousand bushels of wheat.’ He said, ‘Take your contract and write eight hundred.’

⁸ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly

wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it’s gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes.

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*,
to rescue us from our *enemies*,
to serve before you, holy and just,

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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*.

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

* **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

*I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,*

*was crucified, died, and was buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty.
From there he shall come again to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **COMMEMORATION: John Calvin**

John Calvin was the premier theologian and leader of the Reformed wing of the Protestant Reformation.

Calvin was born in France in 1509 and reared in a devout Roman Catholic family. He excelled at his studies and by the age of 19 he had earned a master's degree. His father wanted him to study law, which he did for a

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time, but Calvin's own passions were theology, languages, rhetoric and the literary sciences. Around 1534, he underwent a major conversion experience, left the Roman Church, and devoted the rest of his life to the evangelical cause of the Protestant Reformation.

* Holy Women, Holy Men

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **COLLECT: John Calvin**

Sovereign and holy God, you brought John Calvin from a study of legal systems to understand the godliness of your divine laws as revealed in Scripture: Fill us with a like zeal to teach and preach your Word, that the whole world may come to know your Son Jesus Christ, the true Word and Wisdom; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, ever one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen***

* Holy Women, Holy Men

* **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.***

* **PRAYERS FOR THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE**

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Greater New Jersey Conference to a sizable fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BCP - adapted

* **PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may

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So move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.***

* **COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, on Pentecost Day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. 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**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from
Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, will be ours who live
in truth and love. **Amen.**

2 JOHN 3 CEB

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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