

Monday, June 21, 2021

\* **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.

\* OSL

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

\* **MORNING CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING**

It is good to give thanks to the *LORD*,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most *High*;  
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithful-ness by night,**  
to the music of the lute and the *harp*,  
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are ver-y deep!

Psalm 92:1-5

\* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One\* be with you;

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Oh God, The Holy Spirit,  
come to us, and among us;  
come as the wind, and cleanse us;  
come as the fire, and burn;  
come as the dew, and refresh;  
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives  
to our great good and to your greater glory;  
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

[UM Book of Worship.]

\* **WORD: 1 Samuel 5:1-12** CEB

After the Philistines took God's chest, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> Then the Philistines took God's chest and brought it into Dagon's temple and set it next to Dagon.

<sup>3</sup> But when the citizens of Ashdod got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen facedown on the ground before the LORD's chest! So they took Dagon and set him back up where he belonged. <sup>4</sup> But when they got up early the next morning, there was Dagon again, fallen facedown on the ground before the LORD's chest—and this time Dagon's head along with both his hands were cut off and lying on the doorstep! Only Dagon's body was left intact. <sup>5</sup> That's why to this day Dagon's priests or anyone else who enters his temple in Ashdod doesn't step on the threshold.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod: God terrified them and struck them in Ashdod and its surroundings with tumors. <sup>7</sup> When Ashdod's inhabitants saw what was happening, they said, "The chest of Israel's God must not stay here with us because his hand is hard against us and against our god Dagon."

<sup>8</sup> So they summoned all the Philistine rulers to a meeting and asked, "What should we do with the chest of Israel's God?" The people of Gath said, "Let the chest of Israel's God be moved to us." So they moved the chest of Israel's God to Gath. <sup>9</sup> But once they moved it, the LORD's hand came against the city, causing a huge panic. God struck the city's inhabitants, both young and old, and tumors broke out on them.

<sup>10</sup> Then they sent God's chest to Ekron, but as soon as God's chest entered Ekron, the inhabitants cried out, "Why have you moved the chest of Israel's God to us? In order to kill us and our people?"

<sup>11</sup> So they summoned all the Philistine rulers to a meeting and said, "Send the chest of Israel's God away! Let it go back to its own home so it doesn't kill us and our people," because there was a deadly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. <sup>12</sup> The people who didn't die were struck with tumors, and the screams of the city went all the way up to heaven.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* **Psalm 89:1-18** NRSV

***Righteousness and justice***

***are the foundation of your throne;***

***steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.***

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup> You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
<sup>4</sup> ‘I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.’” *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.  
<sup>6</sup> For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,  
<sup>7</sup> a God feared in the council of the holy ones,  
great and awesome above all that are around him?  
<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts,  
who is as mighty as you, O LORD?  
Your faithfulness surrounds you.  
<sup>9</sup> You rule the raging of the sea;  
when its waves rise, you still them.  
<sup>10</sup> You crushed Rahab like a carcass;  
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.  
<sup>11</sup> The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours;  
the world and all that is in it—you have founded them.  
<sup>12</sup> The north and the south — you created them;  
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.  
<sup>13</sup> You have a mighty arm;  
strong is your hand, high your right hand.  
<sup>14</sup> Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your  
throne;

steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

<sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;  
<sup>16</sup> they exult in your name all day long,  
and extol your righteousness.  
<sup>17</sup> For you are the glory of their strength;  
by your favor our horn is exalted.  
<sup>18</sup> For our shield belongs to the LORD,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

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

***Righteousness and justice***

***are the foundation of your throne;***

***steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **WORD: Luke 21:29-36** CEB

<sup>29</sup> Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the  
trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for  
yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> In the same  
way, when you see these things happening, you know that  
God’s kingdom is near. <sup>32</sup> I assure you that this generation

won't pass away until everything has happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One."

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,

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*.

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

**\* 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: Thomas Bowman Stephenson**

Stephenson, a British Methodist preacher, was born December 22, 1839. He entered the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1860. The young preacher's mustache, a worldly adornment at the time, raised more than a few eyebrows and communicated something of his rather progressive disposition. Stephenson drew crowds with his powerful baritone voice and was the first Methodist to rent a theater for evangelistic purposes. He became a leading advocate for admitting laymen to Conference — a privilege long guarded by the ordained. His two most important innovations were the founding of a children's home and the training of Methodist deaconesses.

\* For All the Saints

**\* PRAYERS**

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

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

**\* COLLECT: Thomas Bowman Stephenson**

Gracious God, our Shepherd, we thank you for raising up Thomas Bowman Stephenson as pastor in your church.

Remembering his faithfulness and care, fill all shepherds of your church with truth in doctrine, fidelity in Word and Sacrament, and boldness and vision in leading the people, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

\* For All the Saints

\* PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

***Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

United Methodist Hymnal – *adapted*

\* PRAYERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

***Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. 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

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.*

\* **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**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen**

# Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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