

Wednesday, June 16, 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** - *The Second Song of Isaiah*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;  
call upon him when he draws near.  
**Let the wicked forsake their ways**  
**and the evil ones their thoughts;**

And let them turn to the Lord,  
and he will have compassion,  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,**  
**nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**For as rain and snow fall from the heavens**  
**and return not again, but water the earth,**

Bringing forth life and giving growth,  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

**So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;**  
**it will not return to me empty;**

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,  
and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

\* **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]

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Samuel 2:12-26** CEB

<sup>12</sup> Now Eli's sons were despicable men who didn't know the LORD. <sup>13</sup> This was how the priest was supposed to act with the people: Whenever anyone made a sacrifice, while the meat was boiling, the priest's assistant would come with a three-pronged fork in hand. <sup>14</sup> He would thrust it into the cauldron or the pot. Whatever the fork brought up, the priest would take for himself. This is how it was done for all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.

<sup>15</sup> But with Eli's sons, even before the fat was burned, the priest's assistant would come and say to the person offering the sacrifice, "Give the priest some meat to roast. He won't accept boiled meat from you." <sup>16</sup> If anyone said, "Let the fat be burned off first, as usual, then take whatever you like for yourself," the assistant would reply,

"No, hand it over now. If not, I'll take it by force." <sup>17</sup> The sin of these priestly assistants was very serious in the LORD's sight because they were disrespecting the Lord's own offering.

<sup>18</sup> Now Samuel was serving the LORD. He was a young boy, clothed in a linen priestly vest. <sup>19</sup> His mother would make a small robe for him and take it to him every year when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife: "May the LORD replace the child of this woman that you gave back to the LORD." Then they would return home. <sup>21</sup> The LORD paid attention to Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the LORD's service.

<sup>22</sup> Eli was very old, but he heard everything his sons were doing to the Israelites, and how they had sex with the women who served at the meeting tent's entrance. <sup>23</sup> Eli said to his sons, "Why are you doing these terrible things that I'm hearing about from everybody?" <sup>24</sup> No, my sons. Don't do this. The report I hear spreading among God's people isn't good. <sup>25</sup> If someone sins against someone else, God can intercede; but if someone sins against the LORD, who will intercede then?" But they wouldn't obey

their father because the LORD wanted to kill them.

<sup>26</sup> Meanwhile, the boy Samuel kept growing up and was more and more liked by both the LORD and the people.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* **PSALM 119:97-120** NRSV

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup> I do not turn away from your ordinances,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe your righteous ordinances.

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup> Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your ordinances.

<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup> Your decrees are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.

<sup>114</sup> You are my hiding place and my shield;  
I hope in your word.

<sup>115</sup> Go away from me, you evildoers,

that I may keep the commandments of my God.

<sup>116</sup> Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope.

<sup>117</sup> Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually.

<sup>118</sup> You spurn all who go astray from your statutes;  
for their cunning is in vain.

<sup>119</sup> All the wicked of the earth you count as dross;  
therefore I love your decrees.

<sup>120</sup> My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgments.

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-40** CEB

<sup>27</sup> Some Sadducees, who deny that there's a resurrection, came to Jesus and asked, <sup>28</sup> "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that *if a man's brother dies* leaving a widow *but no children, the brother must marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.* <sup>29</sup> Now there were seven brothers.

The first man married a woman and then died childless.

<sup>30</sup> The second <sup>31</sup> and then the third brother married her.

Eventually all seven married her, and they all died without leaving any children. <sup>32</sup> Finally, the woman died too. <sup>33</sup> In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? All seven were married to her."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "People who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage. <sup>35</sup> But those who are considered worthy to participate in that age, that is, in the age of the resurrection from the dead, won't marry nor will they be given in marriage. <sup>36</sup> They can no longer die, because they are like angels and are God's children since they share in the resurrection. <sup>37</sup> Even Moses demonstrated that the dead are raised—in the passage about the burning bush, when he speaks of the Lord as *the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* <sup>38</sup> He isn't the God of the dead but of the living. To him they are all alive."

<sup>39</sup> Some of the legal experts responded, "Teacher, you have answered well." <sup>40</sup> No one dared to ask him anything else.

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*.

\* **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: Jabez Bunting** (1858)

Jabez Bunting was the dominant, not to say autocratic, leader of Wesleyan Methodism in Great Britain during much of the first half of the 19th Century. He was born in Manchester, to Methodist parents, on May 13, 1779. As a child he heard John Wesley preach on a number of occasions, and throughout his childhood there was little doubt that he would become a Methodist preacher. He preached his first sermon in a cottage near Manchester in August of 1798. He found work first as the secretary to a prominent Manchester doctor, a role in which his very considerable talents as an organizer became apparent. His employer was disappointed to lose such an able assistant when in 1799 Bunting entered the

Wesleyan Methodist Ministry. During his four years of probation he preached 1348 times, averaging more than six times a week. He soon established a reputation as a considerable orator and drew large crowds. His sermons were always very carefully prepared, but he often departed from his notes into flights of passionate address.

\* 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: Jabez Bunting**

Good Shepherd of the flock, we thank you for faithful bishops, pastors, and abbatial leaders like Jabez Bunting who teach and defend the faith. By your Word call them from maintenance to mission, from ease to vision, and from fear to courageous leadership. Amen.

\* For All the Saints

\* 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 PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

\* PRAYERS FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

***Almighty God, who sits in the throne judging right:  
We humbly request you to bless the courts of justice  
and the judges in all this land; and give unto them the  
spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may  
discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in  
the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to***

***be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.  
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

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your

justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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**

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**”



## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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