

Wednesday, August 18, 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.

* **1st READING: 2 Samuel 18:19-33** NRSV

Then Ahimaaz son of Zadok said, "Let me run, and carry tidings to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the power of his enemies." ²⁰ Joab said to him, "You are not to carry tidings today; you may carry tidings another day, but today you shall not do so, because the king's son is dead." ²¹ Then Joab said to a Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran. ²² Then Ahimaaz son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you have no reward for the tidings?" ²³ "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain, and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ Now David was sitting between the two gates. The sentinel went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he looked up, he saw a man running alone. ²⁵ The sentinel shouted and told the king. The king said, "If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth." He kept coming, and drew near. ²⁶ Then the sentinel saw another man running; and the sentinel called to the gatekeeper and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also is bringing tidings." ²⁷ The sentinel said, "I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz son of Zadok." The king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good tidings."

²⁸ Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well!" He prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground, and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." ²⁹ The king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I do not know what it was." ³⁰ The king said, "Turn aside, and stand here." So he turned aside, and stood still.

³¹ Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated

you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.”³² The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.”

³³ The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **PSALM 119:145-176** NRSV

***Yet you are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.***

¹⁴⁵ With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD.

I will keep your statutes.

¹⁴⁶ I cry to you; save me,
that I may observe your decrees.

¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I put my hope in your words.

¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake before each watch of the night,
that I may meditate on your promise.

¹⁴⁹ In your steadfast love hear my voice;
O LORD, in your justice preserve my life.

¹⁵⁰ Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near;
they are far from your law.

¹⁵¹ Yet you are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.

¹⁵² Long ago I learned from your decrees
that you have established them forever.

***Yet you are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.***

¹⁵³ Look on my misery and rescue me,
for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me;
give me life according to your promise.

¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked,
for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶ Great is your mercy, O LORD;
give me life according to your justice.

¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,
yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

¹⁵⁸ I look at the faithless with disgust,
because they do not keep your commands.

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love your precepts;
preserve my life according to your steadfast love.

¹⁶⁰ The sum of your word is truth;
and every one of your righteous ordinances endures
forever.

¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

¹⁶² I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.

¹⁶³ I hate and abhor falsehood,
but I love your law.

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise you
for your righteous ordinances.

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.

¹⁶⁶ I hope for your salvation, O LORD,
and I fulfill your commandments.

¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps your decrees;
I love them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸ I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you.

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.

¹⁷⁰ Let my supplication come before you;
deliver me according to your promise.

¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.

¹⁷² My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴ I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵ Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

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

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: Mark 12:13-27** NRSV

¹³ Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

¹⁸ Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; ²¹ and the second married the widow and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; ²² none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. ²³ In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

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:** Francis John McConnell (1953)

Bishop McConnell, one of American Methodism's great bishops, was also a great scholar. He became widely known through his many books and articles, most notably his biography of John Wesley (1939).

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McConnell influenced the church not only through his voluminous writings but also through his teaching. He was at various times visiting professor at Boston, Drew, Yale, and Garrett. He was a leader in the Sunday School movement, wrote widely for Sunday School publications and in 1916 was elected president of the Religious Education

Association. He was a gifted and stimulating speaker much sought after for special events and programs.

* 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:** Francis John McConnell

God our Teacher, from whom comes all true knowledge: So bind your words to our lives and write them on the tablets of our hearts, that we may not be swayed by false winds; and grant us faithful guides like your servant Francis John McConnell, that our path to you be made straight and sure 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

* 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.**

* IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

* PRAYER FOR THOSE WE LOVE

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things

than we can desire or pray for; 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, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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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