

WORSHIP GUIDE: SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2020

Meditation...

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)

HYMN OF PRAISE

“When Morning Gilds The Skies”

TEH No. 47

*When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find,
May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this, May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Ye nations of mankind, in this your concord find,
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around,
Ring joyous with the sound, may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this th’ eternal song
Through all the ages long, May Jesus Christ be praised! Amen.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God, we will turn on the light. When we cannot find our way back to love and peace; we will turn on the light. When our vision dims due to the darkness within; we will turn on the light. Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight. The light of the world is Jesus Christ. Come and worship the One Who brings sight to the blind. Hallelujah! Praise His Name forever and ever!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Gracious God, You alone are worthy of our highest praise. We worship You. We adore You. We bow down before You. We come into Your holy presence with love, peace and joy. While we spend this blessed time with You in silence and reverence, we thank You for allowing us to feel Your warm presence. Help us to see You at work as You manifest your power and compassion during these critical times. Enable us to be brave and courageous as we pass through this darkness, and into the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSE

“I Love You, Lord”

*I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice, to worship You, O my soul, rejoice;
Take joy, my King, in what You hear, let it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that we have not lived our lives worthy of Your calling. We have sinned against You; and grieved Your Holy Spirit. We have hurt others and even ourselves by things that we have said and done, by our selfishness and insensitivity. We have failed to become the likeness of Jesus to others. Help us to mend our ways. Give us the strength to bring Your light to those who walk in darkness, and Your compassion to those who live in suffering. Bestow upon us Your healing grace and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals Your glory in His life, His teachings, and His love. We humbly pray, in His Name. Amen.

RESPONSE

“Lord, Heal Our Land...” (refrain)

*Lord, heal our land, Father, heal our land;
Hear our cry and turn our nation back to You;
Lord, heal our land, Hear us, oh, Lord, and heal our land,
Forgive our sin and heal our broken land.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us. Let us believe in our hearts that God loves us and forgives us over and over and over again. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: I Samuel 16:1-13

New Testament: John 9:1-41

MEDITATION (please see attachment)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and Faithful God: The psalmist reminds us that You have filled our cup to overflowing; yet oftentimes, we have only offered to You what spills out of our full cup. In Your grace and love, enable us to spread Your love and blessing as we reach out to bless others. May we always live our lives in gratefulness and generosity. In the name of Christ Who gave all and held nothing back. Amen.

DECLARATION OF UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH (ARTICLE VI)

We believe: The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance to life after death. And we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God’s Kingdom. Amen.

*Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and sent me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the waves notes on my ear, everything false will disappear,
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mind, that I may read more of Thy love in word and deed;
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead? Only for light from Thee I plead
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my mind, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my way, that I may bring trophies of grace to Christ, my King;
Echoed in love Thy Word shall out ring sweet as the note that angels sing.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my way, illumine me, Spirit divine! Amen.*

CLOSING PRAYER (personal prayer)**"A SACRED JOURNEY"**

In the light of our state of calamity as a nation, and as part of the global community, may we tread upon the road ahead as a sacred journey that will allow us to grow deeper in our faith while God speaks to us and lead us on.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... Do not forget: God is our faithful Provider. He cares. He will never leave us, nor forsake us.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me... I remember my affliction and my wandering... Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies... The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows... O taste and see that the Lord is good! **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long...** God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. I have made the Sovereign Lord my Refuge. I will tell of all Your deeds. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH! GO, IN HIS MIGHT AND POWER! AMEN.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
ELLINWOOD-MALATE CHURCH



22 March 2020

**"The Healing Work of
Jesus: From Darkness
Into Light"**

4th Sunday In Lent

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**FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE**

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