

University UMC – Order of Worship
February 4th, 2024
Epiphany 5

Centering Words:

Those who trust God will rise up with wings like eagles.

Prelude:

- Jilsca Oppier

(*) Gathering Songs:

- Tony & Wanda Woolery

“I Will Sing”

Your Blood Makes me white as snow
Your love Jesus makes me whole
I will sing of Your love comes down
You bring new mercies everyday

Chorus

I will sing of your love
I will sing of your Mercy
I will sing of your Love
Lord you heal the broken heart

Your Blood Makes me white as snow
Your love Jesus makes me whole
I Will Sing of your love comes down
You bring new Mercies everyday

Chorus

Bridge:

Your blood washed my sins away
Your love brings new mercies everyday

Chorus

“White as Snow”

White as snow, white as snow,
though my sins were as scarlet,
Lord, I know, Lord, I know,
that I’m clean and forgiven.

Through the power of Your blood,
through the wonder of Your love,

through faith in You
I know that I can be white as snow.

“Forever”

The nails in your hands,
the nails in your feet.
They tell me how much You love me.
The thorns on Your brow;
They tell me how You bore
so much shame to love me.

And when the heavens pass away,
All your scars will still remain
And forever they will say,
how much You love me.

So, I want to say:
Forever my love, forever my heart,
forever my life is Yours.

Gathering & Recognition of Guests:

- Stephanie Denham

(*) Call to Worship:

- Stephanie Denham

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

**The Lord is the everlasting God,
The Creator of Heaven and Earth**

God sits above the circle of the earth
And stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

Those who wait for the Lord.

Shall mount up with wings like eagles

They shall run and not be weary.

They shall walk and not faint.

How good it is to sing praises to our God.

(*) Opening Hymn: “There is a Balm in Gilead” (UMH 375)

- Leslie Kowalski

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think you work's in vain.

But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain

If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all.

Refrain

(*) Opening Prayer:

Everlasting God, you stretch the sky over our heads like a canopy filled with twinkling lights. Scarcely do the stems of our lives take root before the wind carries us away like stubble. Yet you care for us—healing the brokenhearted, gathering the outcast, lifting the downtrodden, while casting the wicked to the ground. Renew our strength this day, O God that we may mount up with wings like eagles. Amen.

Children's Message (*if children are present*)

Prayer Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

(UMH 474, v.1)

- Leslie Kowalski

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired,
I am weak, I am worn.

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Community Prayer

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer in Unison

Choral Anthem: "I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

(*) Scripture: Mark 1:29-39 (NRSVUE)

- Stephanie Denham

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon: "That is What I Came Out to Do"

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Holy Communion

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given to you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Elements: *(Helpers:)*

Invitation to the Offering

- Stephanie Denham

The Divine Deliverer of compassion and care is calling us to serve, and to share our talents and treasures for the good of God's realm. No matter how we have fallen short in the past, God's grace assures us a variety of gifts to contribute. How is God calling us to share today?

Offering

(*) **Doxology: "Great is the Lord" (TFWS 2022)**

- Leslie Kowalski

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just; by his power we trust in his love.

Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true; by his mercy he proves he is
love.

Offering Prayer

- Stephanie Denham

Creator of heaven and earth, you shower the earth with rain, nourish the land with sunshine, and bless your people with goodness. Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with gladness and bring succor to those in need. Amen.

Announcements:

- Stephanie Denham

Valentine's Craft Morning: Celebrate Valentine's Day with us in a burst of creativity and fun! We invite you **Saturday, February 10 from 10 - Noon**, to a morning filled with engaging Arts and Crafts activities, all set in a safe and family-friendly atmosphere. Don't miss this free event where joy and imagination meet.

Potluck Invitation: Please join us for our monthly potluck this Sunday, immediately following the worship service. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship and delicious food with our church family. Everyone is welcome!

New Temp. Office Hours' Reminder: Please note the updated office hours for University UMC: **Monday and Wednesday, work from home (WFH) from 3-7 PM; Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8 AM - 1 PM.** The new schedule will be in effect until May 2024. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this schedule, please feel free to call or email the office. Thank you for your understanding.

(*) **Closing Hymn: "He Touched Me" (UMH 367)** - Leslie Kowalski

Shackled by a heavy burden,
neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and now I am no longer the same.

Refrain:

He touched me, O he touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
he touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him;
I'll shout while eternity rolls.

Refrain

(*) **Benediction** - Rev. Rubén Esponda

Though our lives often seem overwhelming,
in God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles.
Though our responsibilities weigh us down,

in Christ, we shall run and not be weary.
Though injustice and discord sap our strength
In the Spirit, we shall walk and not faint.

Postlude

- Jilsca Oppier