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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Call to Worship

### O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



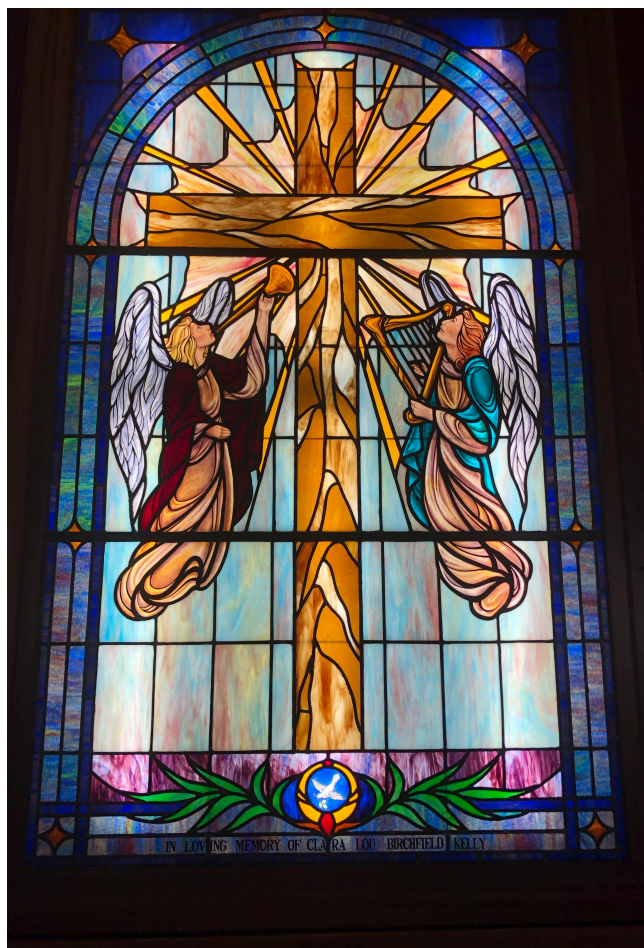
O for a thousand tongues to sing my  
Great redeemer's praise, the glories of my  
God and King, the triumphs of His Grace.

**The One who  
masters the  
tongue masters  
Life.**

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## Announcements

- Plans are being made to return to public worship services. Expect an announcement by Wednesday or Thursday.
- If you are 65 or older and or have a compromised immune system we lovingly ask that you Worship At Home until a vaccine is available ,or Covid-19 no-longer poses a threat.
- Our online presence will continue. You are encouraged to join us for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30 am on Robert's Facebook page. The pastor's messages are available on the Church Website, typically on Monday after 6 pm.
- Zoom Discipleship Classes will continue.
- Outdoor gatherings are safer than being in closed spaces like the Church Building. We have a vision of creating small groups focused on discipleship. Let me know if you have a shaded deck, screened porch or outdoor space where you might host a weekly small group! These groups shall be 10 people or less.
- Sunday school, Corporate Singing, Choir, Youth Group, and Fellowship meals remain canceled.
- A drop box has been installed on the Church Building. You may place tithes and offerings in this secure drop box. Drive through the Church Parking lot. Turn between the Church Building and the Tony's House. The black drop box is on the drivers side at window level.



**May our hearts and minds be stained with Christ's Mercy, Grace, and Love. Then our neighbors will see him and desire a thousand tongues to sing God's Praise.**

## The Psalter

### I have set my King in Zion!

**GOD**

“Why do nations conspire, and people plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against God and God’s anointed, saying, Let us burst their bonds and cast their cords from us. The One who sits in the heavens

laughs, and holds them in derision. Then God will speak to them in anger, and terrify them in fury, saying, I have set my King in Zion, my holy hill. Psalm 2:1-6

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**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The way of the world is indeed without end. Consider the Corona Virus, the cry of Protesters, the fear filled destruction of Looters, Political Corruption, fear of losing our freedom of speech, worship, and financial depression. So it is with God's WORD. God's Word became Flesh and Blood to show us the Way to become children of God. Since God's Son chose to reveal the Spirit and Truth of God with us on earth, shouldn't we be about the same things as Jesus? Those who receive Him and believe in His name receive power to become children of God. Children of God in every way are like God's Son.

Knowing what we are against is not the same as being the voice of ONE crying in this pandemic, fear filled, political wilderness! What shall you/we give to the Lord to receive Him, trust in His name, and experience the power of giving Confession, receiving Mercy, receiving Grace, and giving unconditional Love?

## ***Hospital / Recovering from Surgery***

Dr. Michael Ford - Covid19

\*Kaylee Gibson. Procedure June 5th

\*Donna Mahan- knee replacement June 17th

Lee Phillips - ICU Holston Valley, intestinal tumors, now spread to bones & liver

Benjamin Jennings - In the Navy, just diagnosed/ Covid19 (Robert)

JoannEdens - ER, leg problem (Patty Cooper)

## ***Specific Prayers***

\*Kenny Spurlock - aneurysm in left iliac artery, looking for Gods chosen surgeon

Joey Quinn - brain tumor- non malignant...

\*Elmer Lowe, He is 92 and a half. Nursing home, visitation restricted, 3 Covid cases

\*Geneva Allen -Hospice Care, this is Sandra Rich's mother

\*Sue Liddle Vaughn - Sue doing some better ...Beth H. mother

Donny Jenkins - borderline diabetic, tests coming up soon

Johnny Quillen - Dementia (D. Shupe)

\*Jerry Palmer - lung issue, very sick, trying new medicine (Nancy Allman

\*Patsy & Maurice Lay - Aging and Alzheimers, Patsy is having more issues

Patty Cooper - Vein and heart issues

Steve Cooper - Vision

Dusty Cooper - Cystic Fibrosis

Donny Neeley - Adrenal Gland deficiency (C. Ashley)

## Affirmation of Faith: in Christ

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator 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.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come 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 life everlasting.

## Scripture: John 1:19-28

### John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

**19** Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders[c] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. **20** He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

**21** They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

**22** Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

**23** John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"[d]

**24** Now the Pharisees who had been sent **25** questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

**26** “I baptize with[e] water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

**27** He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

**28** This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## Message

### The Voice of One!

Luther wrote a hymn desiring a thousand tongues to sing His great redeemer’s praise. How many tongues do you/I have? For the next six days ask God one question. Father, whose words did I just speak? Remember, we receive the Lord to give the received measure to our neighbors. Therefore, to identify whose words you/I just spoke ask yourself, Who taught me to think, act, and speak this way. Who bridles your/my tongue and guides your/my way?

A few weeks ago I gave a message from Titus 3. Paul tells Titus to insist that his congregation submit to authorities. Submission never gives us the power or authority to speak for the one to whom we submit. Submission opens the door of faith. Submission to authorities frees us to focus on receiving Jesus, believing in his name, and receiving power to become children of God. John 1:12

### Who I am not?

Names harbor authority and power. The name Jesus is a Hebrew word that means, “The Lord is Salvation.” To call on the name Jesus gives voice to his authority to deliver people from sin, and heal people’s heart -soul-mind to reflect God’s image.

I invite you to think about the wilderness you hear and see! Name the wilderness. For example the Corona Virus, Protest, Looters, Unemployment, Church Closure, Election... Write in your journal what you think about the wilderness. Then explore how you feel about these matters. By this the Holy Spirit leads us to what we may GIVE to God to RECEIVE Jesus.

I invite you to journal for one reason. Awareness! I can’t imagine being God. Every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer we call on the Name of Jesus. We ask God to Deliver us from evil — The Wilderness — and heal us to live in His Presence, GRACE.” It must be hard to deliver and heal a deaf and blind person who unceasingly cries; Lord, save me! But refuses to hush, listen, be still, give and receive.

The Holy Spirit gives John ears to hear and eyes to see the wilderness through God’s redeeming eyes. John the Baptist was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. John was led into the wilderness to make straight the way of the Lord.

Like John we must know who we are not. John was not Elijah. John was not a prophet. John was not Messiah. While people waited on Elijah’s return, or a prophet to bring a word of Hope about the coming Messiah; John announced, Messiah is among us.

### Crying in the Wilderness!

John is the voice of One crying in the Wilderness. To whom was John listening? Who bridled John's tongue? Who is the ONE?

Nothing in all of creation has changed! People want to know who bridles our tongues! Who are you? Name the authorities who bridle your tongue. Who we are for is often lost in lending our tongues to what we are against.

- A. The Pharisees want to know if John is ONE of them. The Sadducees, High Priest, Pilate, want to know if John is a voice for them too.
- B. The people want to be delivered. They side with whom ever they think has the authority to give them what they want. Does this sound like the General Conference of the UMC and the US election process?

Sometimes I speak in the voice of:  
the fearful one,  
reason and judgment,  
compassion and empathy,  
ethics and morals,  
patience, kindness, hope, peace, and joy,  
the Office of Elder of the United Methodist Church,  
the selfish one,  
a Capitalist,  
a Horticulturalist, Biologist, Husband...

How about you?

At first glance Luther's desire to have a thousand tongues to praise our great redeemer's name seems like fantasy. Yet, each of the tongues creates the wilderness where God sends His children to make straight the way of the Lord. Each bridled tongue creates the wilderness where Jesus met suffering and sin with mercy and healing. The power to become children of God is in GIVING him our tongue to receive Him, believe in his name, and receive power to become children of God.

Who are you NOT?

### **John Baptized with water. What do we use?**

To Baptize means to immerse for the purpose of cleansing. When we baptize people in Jesus' name we immerse them in mercy, the forgiveness of sins. But we don't stop with mere forgiveness. We immerse them in the voice of the One whose grace and love heals.

John Baptized with water. The Children of God baptize people in Jesus. The children of God make straight the way of the Lord.

The Lord's way is experienced in the wilderness. The Lord's way meets sin with mercy. The Lord's way delivers people from the wilderness into God's Presence. The Lord's way is giving and receiving. The Lord's way is grace and truth.

As I look at the Wilderness I see and hear a lot of tongues insisting they are the ONE. I also know what I am against. This week I want to name what I am against. When I name it, I will thank the Holy Spirit for leading me not into this temptation but for opening my eyes to see the source of my fear, fighting, running, and or apathy. When I name it I will ask the Holy Spirit to empower me give it to Jesus. Experience teaches me that the moment I give it to Jesus I will receive mercy. Mercy never disappoints. It invites me to enter God's Grace and receive the fullness of Jesus.

Amen.

## Invitation

Lend Him your tongue! Go ahead, tell Him what you are against. Give him your mind with all of its logic, reason, and judgement. Give to him all your mind to make room to Receive His mercy. Give him your heart with all of its feelings, emotions, and fearfulness. Give him all your mind and heart to make room to receive God's Grace.

Lend him your tongue. Praise him for receiving all you have given. Worship Him for giving you the power to become a child of God who is led by the Holy Spirit to do the same things Christ did on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen