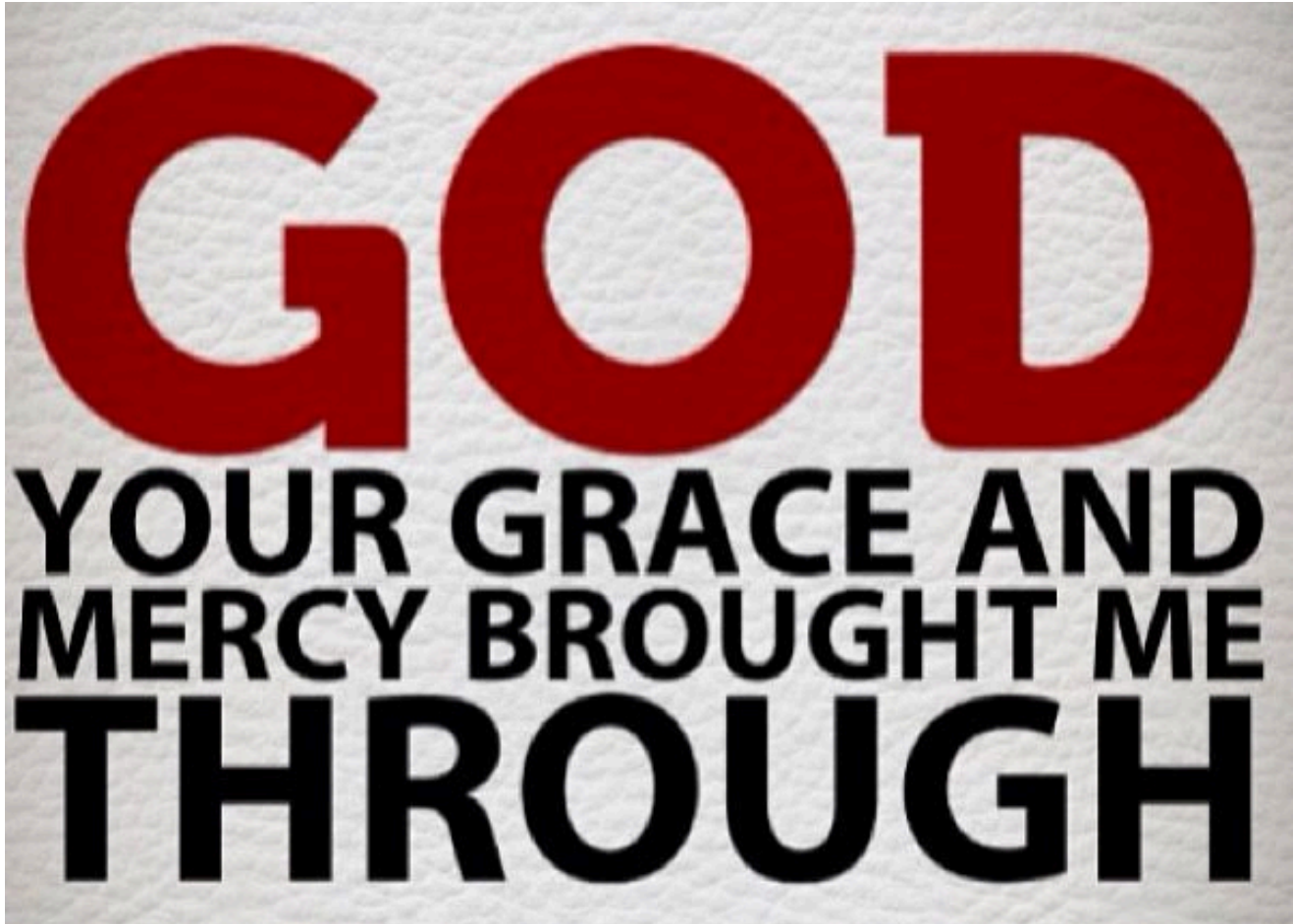

WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude



Opening Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; change from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Cross is where sinners receive God's mercy. Grace is the experience of eating with Jesus, sinners, and Tax Collectors. The Blessing is leaving the table with a strangely warmed heart and peace beyond understanding.

Welcome

Jesus says, Look, I am with you always.

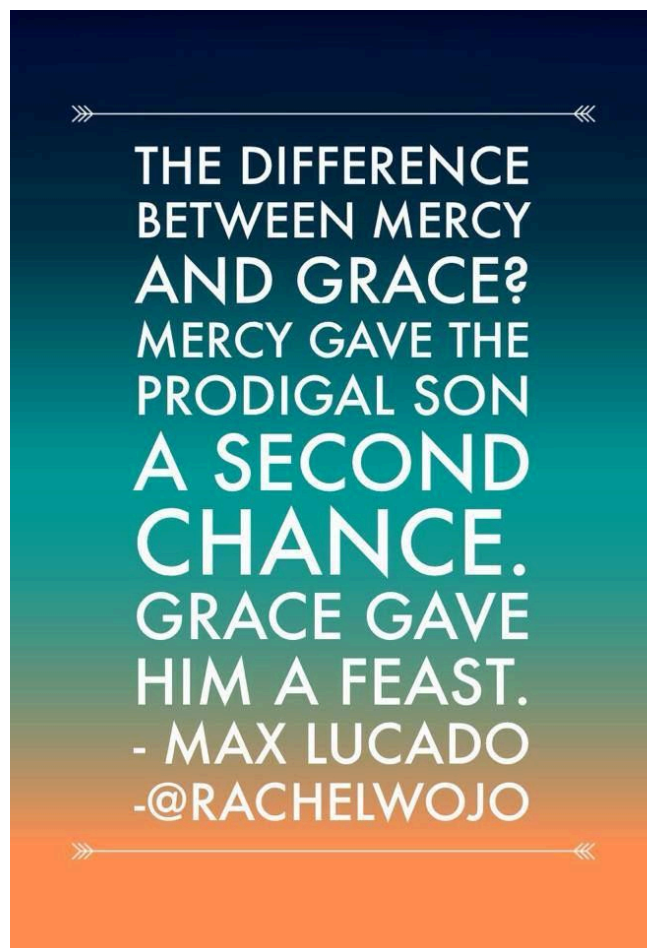
How is Jesus with us?

Look in salvation. **God's mercy delivers us from sin! God's Grace heals us with Love.**

Look in your broken heart and troubled mind. **Jesus confessed our broken hearts and troubled minds: He cried "My God, my God why have you forsaken me."**

Count the ways we are divided by gender, race, power and class. **The Lord leads us to commit such poor spirits into God's hands.**

Listen to your soul. **The Lord is the voice of patience, kindness, and hope in all things.**



Special Music

Prayer

Lord Jesus thank you for fulfilling the Law of Moses with mercy. Thank you for fulfilling the Prophets by preparing Your Communion Table before us in the presence of those who persecute and treat us as enemies. Thank you for righteousness that blesses the cursed.

"The Cross is God's plus sign."

NANCY TONEY

Deliver us from the temptation of fear, sin, promises, judges, kings, and to be like other nations. Deliver us to heal us. Heal us to bless those who curse us. We ask this in the name of our Savior who suffered, died, and rose to give us Life and it eternally. Amen.

Abide with your sin long enough to experience the Father's mercy. True repentance is the experience of discovering that God never turned away. We did!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: O Come and Dwell in Me

O Come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within, and bring the glorious liberty from sorrow, fear, and sin.

Scripture: I Samuel 8

7 And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9** Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

10 Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. **11** He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. **12** Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. **13** He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **14** He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. **15** He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. **16** Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. **17** He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. **18** When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. **20** Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

Instrumental Meditation

Be Still.

Be still and know.

Be still and know I am.

Be still and know I am with you...as love, peace, patience...

Message:

The Bible says God created humanity in God's image. We believe God created us in the image of God, the father, creator of heaven and earth. We believe God created us in the image of God, the Son, who suffers, dies, and rises to eternal-life. We believe God created us in the image of God, the Holy Spirit, who delivers us from temptation to heal our body, spirit, and soul. We believe God is One but revealed as three. Why do we continue to teach people to experience their Body, Spirit, and Soul as separate and divided states of being? How is it that we miss seeing, hearing, and experiencing Jesus as the Incarnate Word made flesh and empowered by the Holy Spirit? Furthermore, when shall we trust Jesus to be Lord of Life?

Experience, not belief nor fact, convinces me that government and religion exacerbates sin three ways. First, look at the way we demonize the Body. We separate ourselves according to Race, Color, And Gender. Second, listen to the way we use words to shame, guilt, and blame one another into submitting to bondage or politically correct conformity. Our use of labels testify to our bondage and political conformity. Third, we define the boundaries of our Being by blessing those who bless us, and cursing those who curse us. Surely we have eyes to see and ears to hear such divisiveness in the current debate in the United Methodist Church, U.S. politics, News Media, and Social Media! Like the Israelites we want to be like other nations. We want judges and kings to fight our battles. Like all gods they have clay feet and iron legs. Before our very eyes they crumble. Oh but the next one will deliver us.

It has been said that humanity continually creates our understanding of God in humankind's image. For example: Laws, Morals, Prophets, Judges, Kings, Nations, and Denominations reflect humanity. The very essence of such is revealed in the passage from I Samuel 8. Confession is intended to prepare us to be delivered. God delivers us from temptation to heal us. The change wrought in the life of one who confesses their sin is freedom!!! Notice how God warns Israel about the plight of having a human king.

1. **Human will versus God's will:** And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9** Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."
2. **Our Kingdom come, not God's.** But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us."
3. **Humanity keeps peace through power, control, and domination.** Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

Nancy Toney offered one of the most memorable Children’s Messages I have heard in my 27 years of ministry. Holding up a cross she said, “This is God’s plus sign.” God creates by adding.

1. God adds mercy to human will. Human will is shaped by our judgement of “good and evil”. At the Cross Jesus is judged by humanity, religion, and government. Listen to Jesus count himself among those who curse him. The cursed think and feel they are forsaken by God. Therefore Jesus adds his voice to that of humanity crying, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me.” To our Confession God adds Mercy.
2. God’s mercy frees us from our neighbors self-righteous judgement. Following Jesus’ Confession he prays that God’s will be done: “Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing.” Receiving God’s mercy did not change the people who judged, condemned, and crucified Jesus. Jesus changed!!! Jesus prayed for those who persecuted him. He loved his enemies as he patiently suffered. Even though He was God in a Body like ours He did not insist on his way. He abided in God’s Grace which delivered him from sin and death.
3. God adds Love to heal our souls. Jesus suffered sin. He was judged according to the Law of Moses, condemned with sin’s penalty, death, and was buried. On the third day God added eternity to Life.

Therefore Jesus is King of Suffering, Death, and Eternal Life. To choose him as King means we bless those who curse us. The Cross is where the curse dies. The Tomb is where the curse of death rises to Blessed Life, eternally. The Life Jesus gives us is Peace with God, Sin, Self, Neighbor, and the World.

Blessed are the Peace Makers for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Amen

| A Human King will claim his Rights | Jesus Reveals God's Nature, righteousness |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take your sons and make them serve him. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives us Jesus. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will make them commanders of 1000s and 50s. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus makes us sons and daughters of God through His Suffering, Death, and Resurrection. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will make them Plow and reap, and make weapons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus teaches God’s children to be Peacemakers who bless people who curse them. |

| A Human King will claim his Rights | Jesus Reveals God's Nature, righteousness |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He perfumes sin with God's Mercy. He eats with sinners at God's table of Grace. In breaking the baker's bread we remember Jesus is with us in our suffering. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take you best land, vineyards, and orchards. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He leads us into the Kingdom of Heaven where God's will is done here on earth. He turns water into wine, there is joy in the Lord. He makes us the Fruit of the Tree of Life. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will take a tenth of everything you own. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives us His Spirit as the first fruits of our inheritance — eternal Life. |

Apostles 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, dead, and buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Tithes and Offering

Benediction

Postlude

