
WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude



The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Jesus calms the storm

Lighting the Candle

You are the Light of the World!

Lord, let us Be Light that shines in inky black darkness!

You are the Light of Christ Mercy!
Lord, let the Light of Mercy shine in our hearts and minds.
We are the Light of Grace.
Lord, let our minds be bound together in the Light of Grace.
We are the Light of Love.
Lord, let the Light of Love bind us together in long-suffering until Christ comes!

Welcome

Temple Builders, in the name of Christ, **we welcome you.**

Advocates of Social Justice, in the name of Jesus Christ, **we welcome you.**

Peacekeepers, in the name of Jesus Christ, **we welcome you.**

Lord Jesus Christ, **we welcome you.**



Let Peace be with you,
in you, and through
you.

Special Music

**The Holy Spirit is the Wind
that stills the storm
raging in you.**

ROBERT

Affirmation of Faith

Lord, we believe in Christ Jesus. **Let the Light of Christ's Mercy make us Meek!**

Lord, we hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. **Let the Light of Christ's Grace open our eyes to see God.**

Lord, we hear you call us to be the children of God. **Let the Light of**

Christ's Love make us Peacemakers.

Confession

The Lord be in you!

And also in you!

Let us pray.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Lord, some of us are caring Temple builders! **Let the Light of Mercy shine in our Temple!**

Lord, some of us are caring advocates of Social Justice. **Let the Light of Mercy shine in our Justice.**

Lord, some of us are caring Peacekeepers. **Let the Light of Mercy shine in our Peace!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks and praise!

We share each others woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Father, thank you for Jesus! **Jesus has the authority to speak to the wind and calm our storms.**

Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit! **The Holy Spirit is the wind of God that comforts and calms our hearts and minds.**

Father, thank you for: **Mercy that forgives us! Grace that remembers our sin no more! Love that binds us together as One with You! Amen**

Special Music

Reading of Scripture: Matthew 8:

23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. **24** Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. **25** The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to

drown!" **26** He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. **27** The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

The Message: Life's Wake Up Call

Life's Wake up Call

Life has a way of waking us up. The disciples listened to Jesus give them the Be-Attitudes. Undoubtedly they listened to Jesus fulfill the Law of Moses through His Sermon on the Mount. Read the Sermon on the Mount. Let the Holy Spirit put it in your mind. Let the Holy Spirit write it on your heart! (Jeremiah 31: 31-34) For example: You have heard it said in ancient times, "You shall not murder; and who ever murders shall be liable to judgement." But I tell you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement." "Who could ever live up to Jesus standard?" Remember, life has a way of waking us up.

The disciples watched Jesus interact with people whom culture, religion, and politicians sacrificed on the altar of right and good judgement. He healed the Leper. They listened to the Centurion, their persecutor and enemy, be blessed for having faith unlike that Jesus had experienced in all of Israel. Peter's Mother-in-Law rose from her illness to serve Jesus. She invited those tormented by evil, sickness, and disease to experience the power of Jesus' touch and word? Her house became a sanctuary of mercy, grace, and love.

Imagine the Disciples experience of returning to their fishing boat and boarding it to cross the sea. It must be like returning from Covid-19 closures to the sanctuary to worship! Jesus goes to sleep. He leaves them to their authority and expertise.

Then a storm brews. Like the Centurion the disciple possess authority. They have authority over the boat, sails, oars, and nets. They also have enough Meekness to know that the wind nor the waves of the sea submit to their authority. How about Covid-19!

Think about your authority and expertise:

Are you a Temple Builder? Are you an earthly builder of sacred space? Name your expertise! What offices have you held in the Temple/Church? How do these offices maintain and build the temple? How concerned are you about losing this sacred space?

Are you an advocate for social justice? Describe the ways you have been victimized because of your race, gender, beliefs, social status.... Where are you serving as a protector of victims civil rights. Where have you served in the past? How concerned are you about losing your civil rights?

Are you a Peacekeeper? Describe the lawlessness you see? What do you see happening to morality? Describe what it means to say, "Freedom isn't free." How concerned are you about losing your freedom.

Temple Builders, Advocates of Social Justice, and Peacekeepers do you have the authority to stop Covid 19? Do you have the expertise to create a cure? What would it take for the Temple Builders, Advocates of Social Justice, and Peace Keepers to listen to one another. If we heard one another could we respect one another. When shall we see that we are in this boat together?

Look around! The sanctuary is still here! The issue is not this sanctuary. The issue is in our hearts and minds. There is a scene in the movie The Shack. Mac is in Jesus' fishing boat. The lake on which the boat floats is the very place Mac saved his son from drowning. While he was saving his son, someone "poor in spirit" abducted and killed Mac's youngest daughter.

The bright sunny day and calm lake turned into a Hellish storm. The fishing boat was being torn apart. The boat was being swallowed by inky black water. Jesus heard Mac's cries. Jesus said, Mac, this is not real. This is happening inside you. Do you feel as if you are being swallowed by black inky darkness?

Life's storms have a way of waking us up. Jesus is with us. Where two or more gather in his name he is among them. Covid 19 is real! Declining attendance is real! The Back Pack Ministry is Real. Prejudice is real! The Anger in the Church and Nation is real.

Jesus says, anger is the same as murder! Mac saved his son! Mac's anger was destroying their relationship. Mac's daughter was dead. Anger is liable to judgement. The Hell -Storm Mac faced was in him. It was consuming his heart and mind.

We are in a storm unlike any I have seen in my life. Jesus is sleeping in our boat. His love is patient. His love does not insist on its way. Will you wake him up. The Holy Spirit is the Wind that stills the storm raging in you.

The Disciples surrender their authority and expertise. They learn a lesson of being Meek and inheriting the earth. They wake Jesus. Like the Leper and the Centurion the storm has made straight their way to the Lord. Did you hear me? Friends, "little faith" is enough to make the mighty meek. Fear has a way of waking us up to discover the storm is in our heart-soul-mind. Then and only then do we understand that the suffering we experience in the world is created by fearful, faithless humanity.

The disciples learned that the wind and the waves obey Jesus' touch and word. They believe in Jesus but do not have faith to trust his authority!

The Son of man will suffer, die, and on the third day rise again before the disciples rise like Peter's mother-in-law to serve Jesus.

Are we ready to serve Jesus like Peter's Mother- In- Law? Will we serve mercy that creates a community of grace who reveals God's Love through patience, kindness, long-suffering...

Amen

The Invitation

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

Tithes and Offerings

Our tithes help Temple Builders maintain the Sanctuary. Our Offerings help Advocates of Social Justice comfort victims of injustice.

Postlude