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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Welcome

In the name of Christ, welcome!



Christ's name means resurrected Life.  
Christ Life is eternal, now and forever.  
Welcome to Life in Christ.

**The Leper  
Experiences  
Jesus' Touch.**

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## The Light:

**You are the Candle. Your Soul is the wick. The Holy Spirit is the Flame. Mercy, Grace, and Love provide the oil of Blessing.**

Christ's life is light.  
 The light of Christ shines in the darkness.  
 The darkness is sin and death.  
 Let the Light-Life of Christ shine in your  
 darkness.  
 Christ is the lamp unto your feet.  
 Christ is the light of your Life - Path.

### Opening Hymn page 647

Your love, O God, has called us here, for all  
 love finds its source in you, the perfect love  
 that cast out fear, the love that Christ makes  
 ever new.

### Canticle of Love page 646

Let love be genuine and live in harmony;  
 Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.  
 Outdo one another in showing honor;  
 Be humble and never conceited.

**Genuine love celebrates resurrected Life.**  
**Its Goodness lets there be mercy and grace.**  
**Love "Honors" Jesus.**

**The "Humble" Bless those who curse them.**

**The Leper used the Law of  
 Moses to part the crowd  
 like the Red Sea. When  
 shall we make straight  
 the way of the Lord?**

Robert

Put love above all else;  
 Let Christ' peace rule your hearts.  
 Always be forgiving,  
 As Christ has forgiven you.

**Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they are the children of  
 God.**

**Christ's mercy makes peace with sin.**

**Christ grace makes peace with death.**

**Christ resurrection makes Peace with us and God.**

Do not love in word and speech only;



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**Christ in you is  
 the Light of Life!**

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Love also in deed and truth.  
Receive each other in sincerity,  
Find mercy and grow old together.

**The Leper experienced Jesus touch.**

**Jesus' touch fulfilled the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount.**

**Our beliefs are built on Jesus' "word and speech".**

**Love as "deed and truth" makes straight the way for Lepers to receive His Touch!**

**Jesus does the "deed." He and the Spirit of Truth fulfill God's purpose and will.**

## Prayer

**Let love be genuine!** Remember the sick and afflicted. Name your concerns and fears regarding our nation. Give thanks for teachers, medical staff, those who defend us, those who lead us. Pray for those who harm you!

**Let Christ rule your thinking and feeling.** Let Christ' mercy guide your thinking about self and neighbor. Let Christ's grace lead your feelings and emotions. Let the Holy Spirit set your soul on fire with mercy, grace, and love.

**Let deed and truth be the Light of Life.** Bless those who harm you. Bless and do not curse. Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they are the Children of God.

## The Lord's Prayer

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

## Hymn page 647

O gracious God, you consecrate all that is lovely, good, and true. Bless those who in your presence wait and everyday their love renew.

## The Gospel: Matthew 8

***When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy[a] came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."***

**3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”**

## Prayer for a New Heart page 392

Thou who art over us,  
 Thou who art one of us,  
 Thou who art:  
 Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee;  
 A humble heart, that I may hear thee;  
 A heart of love, that I may serve thee;  
 A heart of faith, that I may abide in thee. Amen

## Sermon

Focus: Is your attitude born of what you believe about Jesus or an experience of the risen Christ? Blessing is an attitude born of experience. Belief is an attitude born of thinking and feeling. The temptation to choose one or the other is childish. Jesus shows us the way the two become One. This is God’s will for our lives.

Jesus comes down from the Mountain. He comes to the people His Father had given the Ten Commandments. The Old Covenant teaches us to recognize sin. Surely we have experienced how judgement and condemnation add to suffering and death. Jesus gives us Be-Attitudes. He teaches his disciples His Blessed attitude that heals sin.

In this series of Sermons we will focus on Jesus’s saving- attitude. Following Jesus we will see and hear how Blessing those who are cursed fulfills the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

**A Leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”**

See The Law of Moses: Leviticus 13 and 14.

The Israelites judged one another the same way they were taught to choose their sacrifice to God. Spotless! Flawless! Perfect in every way! A person was judged a Leper for various reasons. Loss of skin pigment. Psoriasis! The disease that causes body parts to die and fall off.

They are the sick and diseased people of Israel. To add shame to their affliction, Israel cast them out of the community. Whenever they happened to come near a person they had to cover their mouth and cry “unclean...unclean.”

**Question: Who are the Lepers of our culture? Look deeper into your judgment. Who are the people in our culture who bear “Spots” and “Blemishes” that give us reason to cast them from society. “One bad apple will spoil the whole barrel.” Who are the “bad apples” you know.**

**Introspection:**

Look inside your thinking, feeling, and moral values. Now consider the Leper's actions. He knelt before Jesus. Be honest. Are we making space for Lepers to kneel before Jesus. Are we blocking people from kneeling before Christ based on their imperfect, flawed, and spotted character?

**Confession:**

***How has Covid-19 made us all Lepers? Look again at the Law of Moses.***

*“And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.”* Leviticus 13:45-46

Some of us are wearing Face Coverings. We are Self Isolating. We have a choice about our Covid -19 Attitude! Shall we BE the Blessing? Shall we Be the Curse? The virus is as real as the Leper's, psoriasis, cancer, and heart disease. Will you curse those who curse you? Will you come down the Mountain with Jesus to Bless those already judged and cursed? The attitude we choose is the attitude we give life!

***“And he stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, “I will make you clean.”***

See The Prophet Isaiah 53:4-5

*“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

The very moment Jesus touched the Leper, He fulfilled Isaiah 53:4-5. Jesus became “unclean” by association. This is one of many reasons the Sadducees and Pharisees accused, judged, and condemned Jesus. Therefore, Jesus bears the Leper's grief, sorrow, transgression, and iniquities. At the same time he suffers the religious leaders grief, sorrow, transgression, and inquiries.

***Question: What is the Be- Attitude of the Leper? To whom does he kneel? To whom do you kneel during this Levitical Time of wearing a Face Covering and Social Distancing?***

**Introspection:**

What we fear we become! Fear reveals itself in three ways. We fight. We freeze. We take Flight like a bird. The Leper feared the Lord! He shook off his fear of the Law of Moses, sin! He shook off his fear of judgmental religious leaders. He used the Law of Moses and

Religious Judgement to his advantage. He covered his face and cried unclean, unclean, and like the parting of the Red Sea the people cleared the way for the Leper to kneel at Jesus feet. When shall we use this Pandemic to make straight the way to the Lord?

**Confession:**

Name your attitudes regarding this Levitical - Time. Our Be-Attitudes openly gives witness to the lord of our lives.

***Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”***

**The Law of Moses: Leviticus 14**

Blood is life! The Leper took two doves to the Priest. The priest killed one. Poured some of the Life-Blood on the other bird and set it free.

Then the Priest shows us how the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. He pours the remaining blood into the palm of his left hand — the unclean hand. He dips the forefinger of his right hand into the blood. Don’t miss it. He Baptizes, immerses and cleanses, his finger in Life-Blood. He anoints the Leper’s right earlobe, right thumb, and the big toe of his right foot.

**Introspection:**

Touching the Leper’s ear restores his hearing and inner balance.

Touching the Leper's right thumb restores the lepers strength.

Touching the big toe of the Leper’s right foot restores physical balance and ability to walk in righteousness.

**Confession:** There is nothing “wrong” with religious beliefs. They let us touch our thinking and feeling. Beliefs however are not the same as the experience of being Blessed by Christ’ Touch.

Christ touch opens our ears to hear God’s voice.

Christ touch makes us meek.

Christ touch teaches us to walk in paths of righteousness

The Be-Attitude of Jesus:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” The Leper suffered being poor in spirit. When his mourning became more than he could bear, he parted the Religious Crowd like the Red Sea. He kneeled before Jesus. Jesus’s touch comforted him and made him whole. He became “pure in heart” and saw God.

***Jesus told the Leper not to tell anyone.***

People will not believe until they experience Jesus Touch. Mercy, grace, and love are beyond human understanding.

Bless Religious People! They have all the right beliefs. What they lack is the experience of being touched by Christ.

Amen