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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Prelude:



Play music to quieten your heart-soul-mind. Prepare to receive Holy Communion made of mercy. Prepare to enter His Grace. Expect to be filled with God's unconditional love!

The Feast of the  
Victory of Jesus' Life!

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## Lighting the Candles

Light a candle. Turn on a lamp. Open the drapes. Let there be light that shines around you.

## We are the Light of the World

God said, "Let there be...**LIGHT**."

Let the light of mercy be...**in my heart.**  
Let the light of grace be...**in my soul.**  
Let the light of unconditional love be...**in my mind.**

## Welcome

O let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit and His love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.

## Prayers of Intercession

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

During this time of silence invite the Holy Spirit to “enfold” where your heart-soul-mind suffers from being “poor in spirit.” Name your worries! Name the people for whom you have compassion. Name the people with authority over you. Remember those under your authority.

## Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that our nation is filled with people who have authority to shape our lives. **Lord, have mercy!**

**“Sud accumsan  
libero pretium  
pharetra quis.  
Nunc elit lorem  
magna vitae.”**

*-DIAM NOBIS*

to his disciples, and said:

**"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

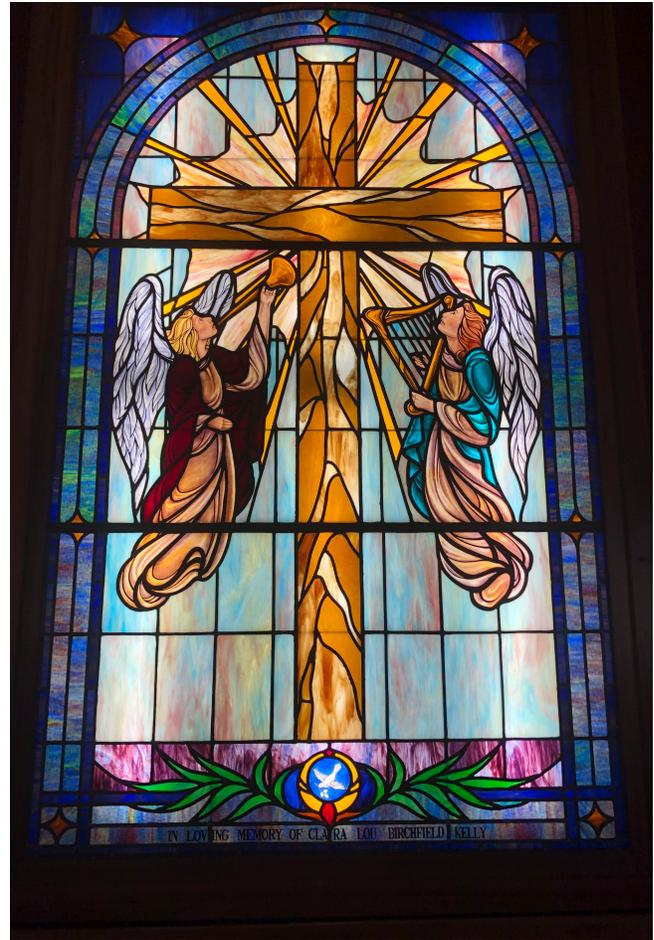
Lord, we confess that our kindred are people of authority. They shape of values, ethics, and morals.

**Lord, have mercy!**

Lord, we confess that our mom and dad are people of authority. We desire to honor them! **Lord, have mercy**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it



Stained-glass window at TUMC

*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 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.**

## Special Music

### Reading of Scripture: Matthew 8

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!"

## Message

### Storm Makers

The Poor in Spirit stir up storms. The poor in spirit are people with beliefs shaped by opinions that hold the fruit of disagreements. The need to be "right" creates a fight of words, emotions, and fist. People choose sides. Words and fist become weapons and war. Jesus' truth is hard to hear: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." The storm we see battering our nation reflects the hearts, souls, and minds of people!

### Love God will all your heart.

The Human heart must be born again. The poor spirit must be born of God's Holy Spirit and Jesus' Truth. First, it must repent. Repentance means we hunger and thirst for a new way of feeling about God, self, and neighbor. How much more shame, guilt, and blame can your heart handle? Jesus shows us the truth of how God feels about us.

The Leper had been trained to cover his face with a mask. When people came near he was trained to cry unclean, unclean. How often do you cry unworthy, unworthy? The poor in spirit feel unclean, unworthy. The Leper repented. He turned to Jesus and said, If

you choose, you can make me clean. He hungers and thirsts for a new way of feeling about himself, God, and neighbor.

Notice that the Leper didn't turn to his nation, his kindred, or his mother and father. He let them be, to turn to Jesus. In that moment the Leper was born again. His poor spirit was born of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens our heart to trust Jesus' truth!

Like Abraham, the Leper discovered that he had a choice. He could follow Jesus. To follow Jesus he left his nation, kindred, and father's house. It is hard to let our father and mother be. They forever tug at our heart strings. It is hard to admit that mom and dad do not have the power or authority to make us clean. The Leper felt Jesus touch. He heard Jesus' word. He trusted Jesus and obeyed.

Jesus told the leper to go to the priest and not to tell anyone what had been done for him. Why did Jesus tell him not to tell any one? The way of Repentance teaches us to hear Jesus and obey. It means we learn to let people's many opinions be. The Leper was born again. He was born of God, not the Law, or Politics, or Ethics, or Morals. He was born of God's Spirit. His heart was filled with Jesus's truth. The door to the Kingdom of Heaven is mercy. The Inner room is the sanctuary of grace. Mercy and Grace overflow with unconditional love.

To love God with all your heart:  
 Let God be. God never changes!  
 Let People be. Don't try to change people.  
 Let opinions be. Otherwise you will stir up a storm.  
 Let Christ be. His way is to bless those who curse him!

### **Love the Lord your God with all your mind!**

The Human mind must be born again. The poor spirit must be born of God's Holy Spirit and Jesus' Truth. First, it must repent. Repentance means we hunger and thirst for a new way of thinking about God, self, and neighbor. How much more unclean, unclean, or unworthy thinking can your mind handle? Jesus shows us the truth of how God thinks about us.

The Centurion was not born of the Hebrew nation. His Father's house and Kindred did not train him according to in the Law of Moses. He was a man under the authority of the people above him. He had authority over people beneath him. At one time or another we all think, So and so is above me. Consider: the leaders of your nation; your kindred who taught you their values; your father and mother.

We also think there are people beneath us. People of other nations, races, gender, education, religion, denominations...

The Centurion's servant was healed. The Centurion was born again. Think about it. Let it settle into your mind. The Centurion left his Nation, his kindred, and his father's house.

Faith is not a new way of thinking. We have faith in the people above us. The people beneath us place their faith in us. The Born again think and feel like Christ. The door to the Kingdom of Heaven is mercy. The Inner room is the sanctuary of grace. Mercy and Grace overflow with unconditional love.

Let God Be...creator.  
Let People be. You cannot change them.  
Let opinions be, or you will stir up a storm.  
Let Christ Be your only authority. He blesses the Poor in Spirit.

### **Love God with all your soul.**

The Human soul must be born again. The poor spirit must be born of God's Holy Spirit and Jesus' Truth. First, it must repent. Repentance means we hunger and thirst for a new way of being with God, self, and neighbor. How much works righteous doing can your soul handle? Jesus shows us the truth of how God is with us.

The Human soul must be born again. First it must repent. It must learn a new way of being. Peter's mother-in-law rose to serve Jesus, not her nation, kindred, or father's house!

She let God be God.  
She let people be.  
She let opinions be.  
She let Christ be.

Putting all of this together in her heart-soul-mind she made straight the way of the Lord. She welcomed the sick and diseased. She welcomed people tormented by evil spirits. Her heart-soul-mind made straight the way for the "poor in spirit" to be with Jesus.

Be Meek  
Be hungry and thirsty for God's righteous mercy, grace and love.  
Be merciful.  
Be the Peacemaker.

IN the beginning God said, "Let there be..." Learning to let God, People and Opinions Be is the way of denying self! It is the way of mercy. Then and only then may become Peacemakers who bless even those who persecute and revile them. "There" the Kingdom of Heaven offers the door of mercy to BE in God's Grace and overflow with unconditional love.

One in Christ,

Robert

## **Holy Communion**

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 is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Tithes and Offerings**

Your tithes support the operating budget of the congregation. Your offering support the outreach ministries of TUMC. Your witness offers Christ to the world.

## **Benediction**

O come and sing this song with gladness as hearts are filled with joy. Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name. O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain, and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

## **Postlude**