

## **MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP:**

God of truth, we come longing for the peace that only you can provide. We seem so often to be tossed to and fro, blown about by every wind except that of your own Holy Spirit. Be pleased to dwell here this day, to receive our worship and our praise. Linger long, and speak the truth to us in love, that we may come to the unity of faith and to the knowledge of the full stature of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

\* The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.

- Calvin Coolidge

❖ The question is not "Is God leading?" but rather "Are we following?" - Unknown

❖ A man who lets himself be worshiped mocks God.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Who came to earth to show us God's way?

All: Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Who reconciled us to God, forgiving all our past?

All: Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Who is the hope of the world?

All: Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Who can rule our lives better than anyone?

All: Jesus, the Christ.

Leader: Let us reclaim Jesus as head of our lives.

All: Jesus, you are the Christ. Come and reign in our lives this day.

PRAISE SONG: Here I Am, Lord (music at end of bulletin)

## **OUR CONFESSION:**

All: Powerful and merciful God, we confess to you the ways we have misused and misunderstood power. We have placed power in the hands of people who have abused it. We have been apathetic when the victims of power have demanded the justice they deserve. We have cowered before those who hold power, rather than stand up to them in the authority you give us. In your mercy forgive us, O God, and teach us to seek power for the good of all, with attention to the powerless and downtrodden. Heal us of the insecurity that leads us to seek the security of worldly power instead of the vulnerable power of Christ our true King. Enable us to live and act in trust of you, even when we do not know what the future holds, because we know that you hold the power of eternity. Amen.

Leader: Hear the Good News: Christ our ruler opened the doors of paradise to the repentant thief. When we confess and repent, Christ will open the doors to God's grace and mercy for us. God forgives our sins. Praise to God.

# CONFESSION RESPONSE: When It's All Been Said and Done (music at end of bulletin)

# THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19 (The Message)

As Luke tells the story of Jesus' life, these words of Jesus counter what some thought of the permanence of the Temple and the religious style of life with it. Instead Jesus suggests impermanence was coming. Life would change and it would be painful and difficult, but the Spirit of Jesus would still be present to sustain them and persevere through the troubling time.

- 5-6 One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, "All this you're admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble."
- <sup>7</sup>They asked him, "Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it's about to take place?"
- 8-9 He said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One,' or, 'The end is near.' Don't fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."
- <sup>10-11</sup> He went on, "Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You'll think at times that the very sky is falling.
- <sup>12-15</sup> "But before any of this happens, they'll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You'll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I'll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters.

<sup>16-19</sup> "You'll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There's no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry; you'll be saved.

MESSAGE: "Whose Leadership Will We Serve?" - Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Teach Me to Stop and Listen (music at end of bulletin)

## THE PRAYERS

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

## THE SENDING OUT:

Enter into the world that is obsessed with power to reveal the power of the Cross. Take with you the blessing of our King, who offered paradise to one crushed by political power. Go in the power of love and the power of joy. **Amen.** 

THE SENDING SONG: Listen Now for the Gospel (music at end of bulletin)

## THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

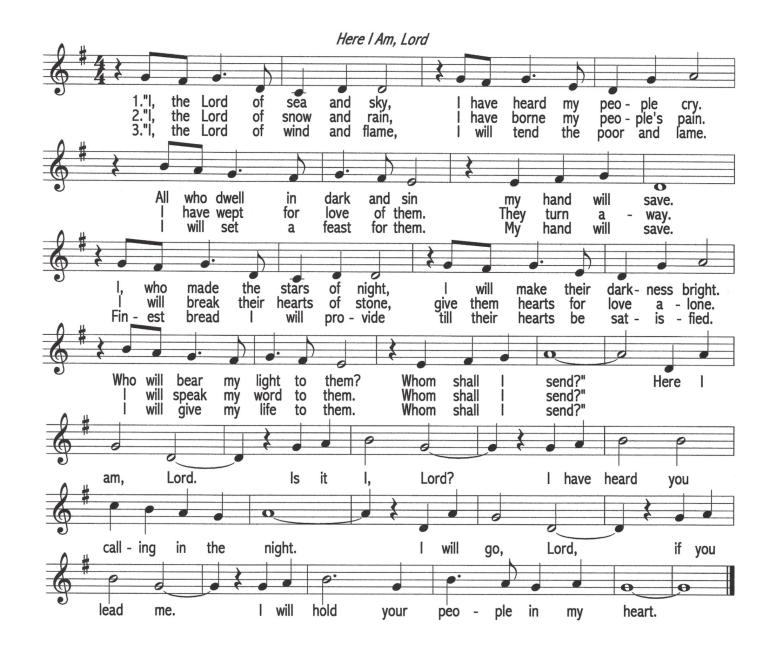


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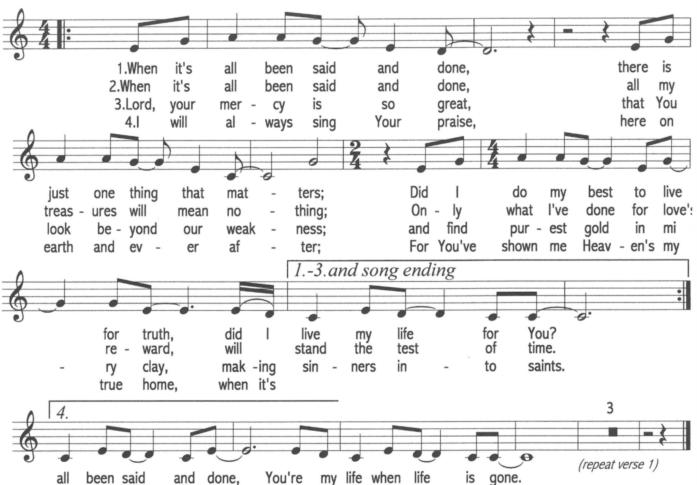
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## Listen Now for the Gospel

