

## MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Draw us in, God, to hear your word, to receive your love, to know your desires. Make us one with the Word, that we may be changed in this holy place, renewed in your Spirit, and prepared to go out into the world to live as your gospel people. May all that is done in this place bring honor and glory to you and be a blessing to us. In your name. Amen.

## PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- \* The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies: probably because they are generally the same people. - G.K. Chesterton
- ❖ All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ, revealed to me in his divine Book.

- David Livingstone

❖ Biblically Centered. We seek to deepen our roots in God's Word and God's love, drawing strength and power from this connection.

Growing In Relationship with Christ and Each Other. As we grow closer to Christ, we can share him with others more fully and effectively. We cherish those relationships which give us life and prepare us for our mission in the world. - Trinity Values

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come and worship the God who created us.

People: We come to sing praises and offer our prayers.

Leader: Come and listen to the God who speaks to us still.

People: In the Scriptures, the sermon, the sacrament and the worship we

listen for God to speak to us.

Leader: Come and hear the family stories.

People: May we hear what it means to be the family of God.

PRAISE SONG: "Be Still" (music at end of bulletin)

### THE CONFESSION:

God of word and life, we confess that we are not always attentive to your life-giving word. We sometimes fail to notice that what we attribute to you does not match the love and hope and grace that we know to be you. For the times we mistake your word for other voices in our lives, forgive us, and give us clarity. For the times we mistake other voices for your word, forgive us, and help us to discern what is of you and your grace. For the times we impose our version of your word on others, forgive us, and open our hearts. Move us to live our lives grounded in your word, your love and your grace. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God wishes fullness and life for us. God loves us despite who we are and calls

us to life in God's word.

People: We are liberated by God's forgiveness and proclaim,

All: Praise and thanks to God on high!

CONFESSION RESPONSE: "Listen Now for the Gospel" (music at end of bulletin)

# THE LESSONS: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

This is the beginning of the first letter Paul wrote to the early Christian believers in the Greek city of Corinth. To those Christians who had come out of a Jewish background, the Apostle Paul suggests the idea that the death of Jesus on a cross is meaningless or folly; and to those Greek Christian or Gentile believers who came out of a Greek wisdom background, it may be stupid. However, to those who believe in Christ and the meaning of His death on the cross, this message is the power of God.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## Galatians 5:4-6

This is also written by the Apostle Paul, not to a city but to an area in Asia Minor, called Galatia, today part of eastern Turkey. Here he suggests that those who came out of a Jewish background may seek to be right with God through their obedience to Jewish law, Instead he says it is through belief in Christ of God shown in acts of love.

You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

# THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-13

This is the beginning of the last of four books about the life of Jesus. Here the writer suggests Jesus was at the beginning as the incarnation or human representation of God. He is referred to as the light, who came to bring people hope in the sometime darkness of life providing believers with a new status as children of God.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**MESSAGE:** "Family Stories Bring Us Closer to Jesus and the Rest of the Family" - Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: "Listening People" (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### 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:

Leader: We have sung God's praises; we have heard his voice in Scripture; we have received blessing from God and each other. Let us go out now in joy to live as his witnesses. Let us go in the grace, power and love of God. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

THE SENDING SONG: "Be Doers of the Word of God" (music at end of bulletin)

## THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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### Be Doers of the Word of God to ELW 661

