

The Kingdom of God

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, January 16, 2022)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

Deep River

African American Spiritual

Deep River. My home is over Jordon.

Deep River, Lord I wanna cross over into campground.

Oh don't you want to go, to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is
peace?

Walk into heaven and take my seat and cast my crown at Jesus feet.

Deep River. My home is over Jordon.

Deep River, Lord I wanna cross over into campground.

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Vallerie Pringle, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

To follow Jesus is to sometimes walk with him into the wilderness.

We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is in our hearts and on our lips.

Our call is to trust in God alone, to do God's will in all things.

For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but also through it.

Opening Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

God is faithful, leading us into freedom, but we are conditioned to the slavery of sin. Comfortable with the way things are, we lose sight of the way God intends them to be. Let us bring our confession before the One who loves us and longs to renew and forgive us. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, forgive us when we fail to trust you. We fall to temptation. We choose our ease and comfort over your call for justice for all. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you desire. Forgive us, we pray, and turn our hearts towards you, that we might follow you in faithful obedience.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture declares that God is generous to all who call on the Lord's name.

God does not turn away from us but offers us glorious mercy and freedom from sin. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Response: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Bring your word near to us, O God, that it may be food for our souls. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts. By the power of your Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives, that we may reflect your love and peace to the world. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 4:1-13

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil ^a led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil ^b said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

11 and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Middle Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Call to offering (Liturgist)

Grateful for all we have been given in Jesus Christ, we joyfully share God's generosity with others. Thank you for your gifts which sustain this community of faith and our commitment to our neighbors. Please pray with me our Prayer of Dedication...

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for the nourishment of your Word that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, in celebration of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand; Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Benediction

Postlude:

We Shall Overcome

African American Spiritual

We shall overcome...

We'll walk hand in hand...

We shall live in peace...

We are not afraid today...

God will see us through today.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, David Maley, piano,
Vallerie Pringle, liturgist and Jon Jelsma, technology team