



## BECAUSE GOD

August 16, 2020, 11 am worship

Click the link below to interact live on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HomerUnitedMethodistChurchAlaska/>

OR

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/mBkGevwKZv0>

### Centering

- Welcome!
- open your Bible to Matthew and have this Worship Guide handy
- light a candle and breathe deeply for you are on holy ground!

### Prelude

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Ola Mullikin

WORDS: Peter Scholtes

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

CCLI Song #26997

CCLI License # 11365960

### Opening Prayer (adapted from BJ Beu, Abingdon Worship Annual 2020)

When hatred and division separate us

**God's love binds us together.**

When quarrels estrange us,

**Christ lights the way to reconciliation.**

When we feel excluded,

**The Holy Spirit is with us.**

When hope seems lost,

**God's grace restores us. Amen.**

### BECAUSE GOD<sup>1</sup> Series Introduction

Jesus performed miracle after miracle - feeding, healing, walking on water. We can get caught up in "how" they occurred. What if we're asking the wrong questions? Instead of asking how they happened, what if we ask how can we let them motivate us to live out our faith every day? Why did Jesus perform these miracles? What are we supposed to learn from them? Why were these stories passed down to us? The how is simple: Because God. The why is our motivation to live as people of faith.

---

<sup>1</sup> Series from UMC Discipleship Ministries (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/because-god>)

**Scripture**

Matthew 15:10-28

Dotty Cline

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' <sup>13</sup>He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' <sup>16</sup>Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' <sup>24</sup>He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' <sup>26</sup>He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' <sup>27</sup>She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

To the Lost Sheep

Pastor Lisa

**Prayers of the People** (Jennifer and Todd Pick, Abingdon Preaching Annual 2020)

Welcoming God, open our ears to the cries of the oppressed and outcast. Open our eyes to recognize you in the weary and the wounded.

**Open us, we pray.**

Open our hands to offer mercy to the desperate and the distressed. Open our hearts to risk loving the least and the lost.

**Open us, we pray.**

Open our mouths to speak life-giving words of healing and hope. Open our hands to offer bread to the hungry and hurt.

**Open us, we pray.**

Open our minds to welcome the stranger and the outcast. Open our lives to your Spirit, who declares everyone beautiful and beloved.

**Open us, we pray, and reveal to us your reign of justice and joy. Amen.**

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**Offering**

Thank you for your generous donations which support the missions and ministries of the church.

Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/Donate.html>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

**Benediction**

May God's love heal us.

May God's peace unite us.

May God's hope light our way.

Amen.