



## Homer United Methodist Church

February 21, 2021

Click the link below to interact live on Facebook:

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

OR

Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/u73bYuSmBxI>

**Poetry Prayer<sup>1</sup>**

Remember When?

Leah Dunn

### Centering

- limit distractions, light a candle, take a deep breath, and offer a prayer of gratitude for the indigenous peoples on whose land you live, work, and worship

### Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

Before the sun rises,  
Before the wound heals,  
Before there are answers,  
Before there is closure.

**God meets us in the night.**

Where joy is effervescent,  
Where laughter is contagious,  
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
And where people gather around the table.

**God meets us in the light.**

At the edge of the water,  
At the beginning of the wilderness,  
At the start of something new,  
On the edge of faith.

**God meets us at the threshold.**

<sup>1</sup> Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

<sup>2</sup> All liturgy adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

If God meets us in all those places,  
Then surely God meets us in between.  
God is all around,  
Staying with us through the wilderness.

**We are not alone. Amen.**

**Opening Song**

WORDS: William D. Longstaff, ca. 1882  
MUSIC: George C. Stebbins, 1890  
CCLI Song # 93748  
CCLI # 11365960  
PUBLIC DOMAIN

*Take Time To Be Holy*

Ola Mullikin

**Prayer for Illumination**

Dotty Cline

**Scripture**

*Mark 1:9-15*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

**Song of Preparation**

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray  
MUSIC: Attr. to B.F. White  
CCLI Song # 3499304  
CCLI # 11365960

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Lucy Kunkler

**Sermon**

*Again and Again: God Meets Us*

Pastor Lisa

Again and again, God meets us wherever we are, in the wilderness, in the drought, in the pandemic. And we know that we are not alone because God is with us.

**Refrain**

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Lucy Kunkler

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray  
MUSIC: Attr. to B.F. White  
CCLI Song # 3499304  
CCLI # 11365960

**Time of Confession and Forgiveness**

**God who meets us where we are—**

**There is nowhere we can go that you are not.**

You were with Jesus at his baptism.  
You were with him in the wilderness,  
And even in between, you were there,  
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

**We know that you are with us too—  
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—  
But so often we act like we are alone.**

Instead of coming to you with our hurt,  
We hold it in or cast it onto others.  
Instead of coming to you with our joy,  
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

**How can we long for a deeper relationship with you  
While we are living like you are nowhere to be found?  
Forgive our self-centered ways.**

Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.  
You are the God who meets us where we are.  
**Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.**

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:  
God is here. God sees you. God knows you. And God calls you beloved. Amen.

**Special Music** *Siyakudumisa* Vheneka  
MUSIC: Traditional South African song; arr. for marimbas by Karin Sonnen  
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### **Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God**

Thank you for your continued generosity. Your gifts help us maintain 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**

In the name of God the Lover, God the Beloved, and God who is Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
Amen.

**Closing Song** *What Wondrous Love Is This?* Lucy Kunkler  
WORDS: USA folk hymn  
MUSIC: USA folk hymn; harm. by Paul J. Christiansen, 1955  
CCLI Song # 197297  
CCLI # 11365960  
PUBLIC DOMAIN