

WORSHIP HANDOUT
February 20th



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Kum ba ya” arranged by John F. Wilson
United Handbell Choir

*OPENING SONG Open Doors

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Strength is commanding
the wind and sea to obey,

**Strength is wielding
a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.**

Strength is accepting vulnerability
from inside the boat,

**Strength is standing in solidarity
with the powerless.**

Strength is turning a cheek,

Strength is loving an enemy.

We come to worship

a God who redefines our vision of strength.

~ written by Katherine Hawker, 1997, and posted on **Liturgies Outside.** <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

*HYMN UMH 140 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

**Merciful God,
In love You created us,**

**and in love You sustain us, day after day.
So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You,
knowing that You will hear and respond.**

**We pray for those who are estranged from spouse or family,
friends or neighbors;
who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs done to them;**

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**We pray for those who for years have carried feelings of guilt
or regret
for something they did or something they neglected to do;
who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness or forgive
themselves;**

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**For those who find themselves far away from You,
struggling to overcome their doubts or disillusionment,
and who wonder how to find their way back;**

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**For those watching someone they love try to cope
with serious illness or injury,
and who long for Your miraculous intervention;**

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**For the many others in our world who are suffering this day—
from grief, or loneliness, hunger, poverty, violence or illness;**

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Sustain all those who look to You in hope.
And strengthen us—Your people—
so that we may be a light to all those who find themselves in
darkness.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Amen.**

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

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 now and
forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives.

HYMN

UMH 428 For the Healing of the Nations

LESSON 1 Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. ⁵ Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. ⁶ We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. ⁷ God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. ⁸ You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

⁹ "Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. ¹⁰ You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. ¹¹ I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.'

¹⁵ He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

May God add a blessing to this reading.

*LESSON 2

Luke 6:27-38 CEB

²⁷ "But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for

those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹ Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³² "If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ "Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return."

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Surely you can't be serious?"

HYMN

UMH 549 Where Charity and Love Prevail

BENEDICTION

UMH 572 Pass It On (vs. 1 only)

POSTLUDE