

## WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace” by Kevin McChesney  
United Handbell Choir

\*SONG OF WELCOME    Open Doors

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Lord, help us to be humble.

**P: We are called to remember whom we serve.**

L: God, you call us to think of our neighbors.

**P: Let us show how to be people of love and not hate.**

L: Christ, reside in our hearts.

**P: We shall be the light of Hope to those we meet and serve.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**We are reminded of the importance of serving others, of caring for the world around us, and for looking after our neighbors. Let us not think too highly of ourselves, and instead sew crops of love for all in the world to enjoy. Amen.**

ANTHEM    “Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord” by Benjamin Harlan

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER    Wide, Wide as the ocean  
CHILDREN’S MOMENT

TIME OF PRAYER

## SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

### 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.**

PRAYER HYMN      Freely, Freely UMH 389

LESSON 1      Esther 6:1-5 CEB (liturgist)

**That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. 2 It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.**

**3 "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked.**

**"Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered.**

**4 The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.**

**5 His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered.**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

LESSON 2      Esther 6:6-12 CEB

**When Haman entered, the king asked him, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?”**

**Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?”<sup>7</sup> So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor,<sup>8</sup> have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head.<sup>9</sup> Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king’s most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, ‘This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!’”**

**<sup>10</sup> “Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”**

**<sup>11</sup> So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”**

**<sup>12</sup> Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief,**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE                      High and Mighty

\*HYMN                         The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve    TFWS 2241

UNISON PRAYER -

**Teach us the courage, O God,  
to turn from what seems so natural, so safe:  
the way of grasping power,**

**and befriending the powerful,  
in the hope of protection and security.**

**Teach us the humility, O God,  
to turn from what is so enticing, so persuasive:  
the way of accumulating things,  
and trusting in wealth,  
in the hope of comfort and life**

**Lead us, O God, in another way,  
the way of true security, true wealth,  
the way of Christ, the servant,  
the way of weakness and simplicity.**

**Lead us, O God, in another way,  
the way of caring for the neglected,  
feeding the hungry,  
housing the homeless,  
protecting the threatened,  
and challenging the powerful,  
the foolish way of the Gospel,  
that brings salvation to all. Amen.**

~ Written by John van de Laar, and posted on his excellent website, [Sacredise.com](http://Sacredise.com). Visit his site for other good lectionary-based prayers and worship resources.

**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. Amen.

\*BENEDICTION      Song of Hope    TFWS 2186

POSTLUDE