WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday July 27th

OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*SONG OF WELCOME Come Like a Fire

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, *"Ask, and it will be given you;*

*search, and you will find;*

*knock, and the door will be opened for you."*

Lord, as we search now, let us find you.  
**As we knock, open the door to us.**  
Let us know you, that we may praise you;  
**and love you, that we may serve you.**

~ posted on **David Beswick’s Home Page.** <http://www.beswick.info/rclresources/17C95OS.htm>

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, our Master in heaven,**

**make us fair and just in our dealings with others;**

**keep us persistent in prayer for them,**

**alert to their needs,**

**and constantly thankful;**

**open doors for us to proclaim the message about the secret of Christ;**

**help us to speak as we should, to make it clear.**

**Keep us wise in the way we act towards those who do not believe,**

**help us always to make good use of every opportunity we have;**

**let our conversation be attractive and inspiring,**

**and teach us how to give the right answer to everyone,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**~ written by Michael Perry, and posted on The Jubilate Group website.**[**http://www.jubilate.co.uk/**](http://www.jubilate.co.uk/)

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

TIME OF PRAYER (litany)

Lord, teach us to pray.

So we might awaken to the wonder of your presence

So we might feel gratitude for your gift of life today

So we might discover your kingdom

as revealed in our sisters and brothers

So we might find safety beneath the shelter of your wings

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

So we might forgive those who have wronged us

So we might lead free from pretense and hypocrisy

So we might trust your perfect plans

and not replace them with our own

So we might love you with our whole hearts,

and love our neighbors as ourselves

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

So diverse hearts might harmonize as many voices become one

So our bodies might praise you in bowed heads and raised hands

So a spirit of criticism is replaced with an offering of sacrifice

So we consider others more important than ourselves

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

So the truth of your Word resonates in what we say and sing

So we might prepare a way through the wilderness of chaos and pain

So our eyes are alert and our souls awake to your movement in our midst

So our good work is fruitful in the reign of your kingdom

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

So our voices bring a pleasing sound to your ear

So the notes of our instruments rise sweetly to your throne

So our singing is a light in the darkness, drawing nations to your grace

So our songs vibrate with the voice of the Lamb who was slain

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

So the lonely and hopeless find comfort in your abundant presence

So those in war and famine find the everlasting peace of your Spirit

So we are not indifferent to the suffering of the world around us

So our songs help to make us look more like you

So we might declare your glory as we gather together:

**Lord, teach us to pray**

~ “Lord Teach Us to Pray: Responsive Reading,” by Chuck Fromm and Jeremy Armstrong, as found in “Lord Teach Us To Pray,” Worship Leader Magazine (September-October 2015). Posted on Preach the Story. <https://preachthestory.com/>

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 Sanctuary

LESSON 1 Genesis 18:20-32 CEB

**20**Then the Lord said, “The cries of injustice from Sodom and Gomorrah are countless, and their sin is very serious! **21**I will go down now to examine the cries of injustice that have reached me. Have they really done all this? If not, I want to know.”

**22**The men turned away and walked toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing in front of the Lord. **23**Abraham approached and said, “Will you really sweep away the innocent with the guilty? **24**What if there are fifty innocent people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not save the place for the sake of the fifty innocent people in it? **25**It’s not like you to do this, killing the innocent with the guilty as if there were no difference. It’s not like you! Will the judge of all the earth not act justly?”

**26**The Lord said, “If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will save it because of them.”

**27**Abraham responded, “Since I’ve already decided to speak with my Lord, even though I’m just soil and ash, **28**what if there are five fewer innocent people than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city over just five?”

The Lord said, “If I find forty-five there, I won’t destroy it.”

**29**Once again Abraham spoke, “What if forty are there?”

The Lord said, “For the sake of forty, I will do nothing.”

**30**He said, “Don’t be angry with me, my Lord, but let me speak. What if thirty are there?”

The Lord said, “I won’t do it if I find thirty there.”

**31**Abraham said, “Since I’ve already decided to speak with my Lord, what if twenty are there?”

The Lord said, “I won’t do it, for the sake of twenty.”

**32**Abraham said, “Don’t be angry with me, my Lord, but let me speak just once more. What if there are ten?”

And the Lord said, “I will not destroy it because of those ten.”

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

\*LESSON 2 Luke 11:1-13 CEB

**Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”**

**2Jesus told them, “When you pray, say:**

**‘Father, uphold the holiness of your name.  
Bring in your kingdom.  
3Give us the bread we need for today.  
4Forgive us our sins,  
    for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us.  
And don’t lead us into temptation.’”**

**5He also said to them, “Imagine that one of you has a friend and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. Imagine saying, ‘Friend, loan me three loaves of bread 6because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.’ 7Imagine further that he answers from within the house, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to give you anything.’ 8I assure you, even if he wouldn’t get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his friend’s brashness. 9And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. 10Everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened.**

**11“Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? 12If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? 13If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE Taking the Deep Breath

\*HYMN I have this Hope

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 Shalom to You UMH 666

POSTLUDE