

## Worship Service on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM

### Quiet Time Prayer

O God, how have I used the gifts  
you've entrusted to me?  
Have I kept them to myself?  
Have I shared them with others?  
Do I have more to give back to you? Amen.

### Welcome

**Greeting** God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day** Approximate speed of light (in vacuum, miles per second)?

a) 120,000 b) 186,000 c) 200,000 d) 232,000

**\*Hymn** "Here I Am to Worship"

### **\*Call to Worship**

God's love surrounds us here today.

**God calls us to be children of light.**

We belong to the light when we have faith.

**Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.**

Let us invest ourselves in worshiping God and  
may our worship encourage each of us today.

**We are here to build up one another  
and to give our praise to God.**

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Shine your light on your Word, O Lord! And by your Spirit let us see your wonder.**

**Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way. Amen.**

### **Matthew 25:14-30 New Revised Standard Version**

[Jesus said:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave, you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one

with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

### **I Thessalonians 5:1-11 *New Revised Standard Version***

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

**\*Hymn** “Hear My Prayer, O God”

#### **Time of Prayer**

**How Is It With Your Soul?**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us join together in prayer.

**Holy God, you welcome us into your joy and entrust us with your gospel. In hope for the world to come and with love for the world you made, we offer our prayers for your church, your earth, and your people.**

For your church, in this community and around the world, that your good news may be proclaimed to all.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For oppressors, that they might know justice, and those oppressed, that they might know peace.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For your creation, that we may be the caretakers you intend.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For the young, that they might be nurtured in love.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For the old, that they might be secure in your care.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For those who fight the demons of addiction, that they might find relief.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For those who face an early death and those they leave behind, that they might be comforted.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For all those who care for the suffering and those in their charge, that they would be freed from pain and fear.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

For all of those about whom we worry and those whose troubles are known only to you.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

All this we pray with gratitude for your eternal love and extravagant grace.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

*(Time of Silent Prayer)*

Children of God, with Jesus our brother and Savior we pray:

**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, forever. Amen.**

**Answer to the Question of the Day**

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**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

**Offering Prayer**

**For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Song of Offering** "More Precious than Silver"

**Message** "Children of Light" Rev. Joyce Rich

**\*Commission and Blessing**

As another week unfolds, continue to look up.

Dare to invest yourself for the sake of others.

**God will go with us to uplift our spirits.**

**We will pass on to others the encouragement God gives.**

Live as children of the day, children of light.

**We will keep awake, sober, and full of faith and love.**

May God bless our worship and our service.

**May God's saving grace be a healing force among us.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Forever"

**Announcements**

**Read for Next Week** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 100

*Liturgical resources drawn from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; and Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press.*