

## Sunday, August 2, 2020

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

### Question of the Day:

How many UMCOR hygiene kits did we collect? a) < 10 b) 11-15 c) 16-19 d) > 20

**Hymn** “Come as You Are”

### Call to Worship

Come into the presence of God.

Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

**We come to seek God’s face.**

**Let our eyes see all that is right and true.**

We incline our ears to hear all God would teach.

We seek to experience God’s steadfast love.

**Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God.**

**We come to praise you and receive your blessing.**

### Prayer of Invocation

**Holy God, as we wrestle with issues of faith and trust, may your Spirit help us. Amen.**

### Genesis 32:22-31 *The Message*

But during the night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He got them safely across the brook along with all his possessions.

But Jacob stayed behind by himself, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he couldn’t get the best of Jacob as they wrestled, he deliberately threw Jacob’s hip out of joint.

The man said, “Let me go; it’s daybreak.”

Jacob said, “I’m not letting you go ’til you bless me.”

The man said, “What’s your name?”

He answered, “Jacob.”

The man said, “But no longer. Your name is no longer Jacob. From now on it’s Israel (God-Wrestler); you’ve wrestled with God and you’ve come through.”

Jacob asked, “And what’s your name?”

The man said, “Why do you want to know my name?” And then, right then and there, he blessed him.

Jacob named the place Peniel (God’s Face) because, he said, “I saw God face-to-face and lived to tell the story!”

The sun came up as he left Peniel, limping because of his hip.

### Psalm 17:1-7, 15 *NRSV*

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;

give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come;

let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,

if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;

my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips

I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.  
I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me, hear my words.  
Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.  
. . . As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

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

### **Time of Prayer**

#### **How Is It With Your Soul?**

#### **Call to Confession**

All of us need times of wrestling with God over issues in our lives. These moments of confession offer us one such opportunity. Bring your own distress to this time of confessing the sin in which all of us have a part.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of justice and righteousness, we bring to you our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, beckoning us to join in their destructive ways. We stumble and fall, and bring others down with us. Take away our wickedness, O God. Restore us, we pray.**

*(Time of silent prayer.)*

#### **Assurance**

God is merciful, patient, kind, and loving. God attends to our cries and frees our lips from deceit. In Christ, our brokenness finds healing, and relationships are mended and strengthened. God frees us in ways beyond our knowing. Thanks be to God! Let us join Jesus in praying:

#### **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**

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

#### **Offering Prayer**

**Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Amen.**

**Message** "To Meet the Test" Rev. Joyce Rich

### **Commission and Blessing**

Go out to wrestle with God and the world this week.  
Know that God intends that you will feel blessed.

**We believe that God preserves our lives.**

**All we have is a gift to us from our Creator.**

Call on God in your times of need.  
Listen for the answers God supplies.

**God keeps covenant with us at all times.  
We will seek to keep our promises to God.**  
Amen. **And Amen.**

**Hymn** “I Will Call Upon the Lord”

**Announcements**

**Read For Next Week:** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A**, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press.*