

OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

OCTOBER 11, 2020

*Thanksgiving Sunday: “Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say rejoice!”*

Worship Leader: George Janzen
Children’s Time: Lynette Janzen
Song Leaders: Ben Buhler

Pianist: Lynette Janzen
Sound: Stephanie Siemens
Ushers: Harold Loewen, Anna Peters

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

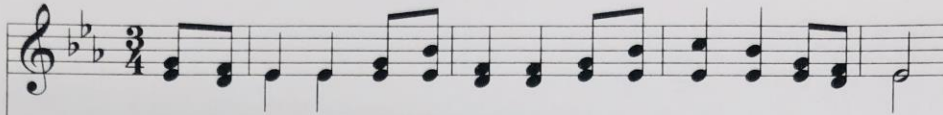
Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

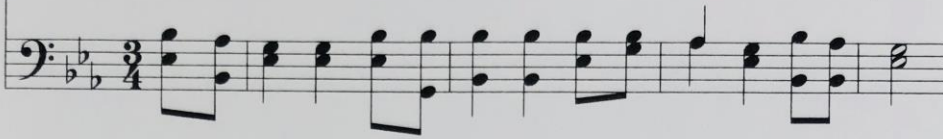
Hymn: Purple/SS #1 “Praise the One who breaks the darkness”

Praise the One who breaks the darkness 1

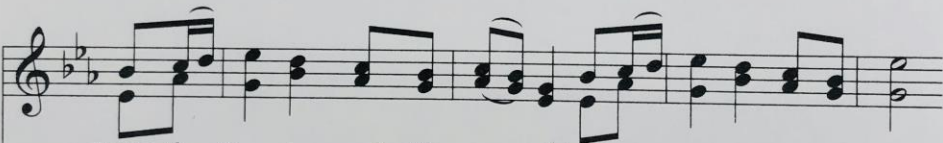
NETTLETON 87. 87D



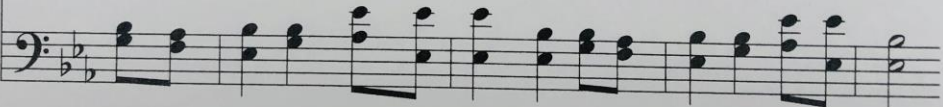
- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the One true love in - car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.



Text: Rusty Edwards

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Music: American folk melody, J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9 (*Inclusive Bible*)

On this mountain, Yhwh Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, food rich and succulent, and fine, aged wines. On this mountain God will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, the shroud covering all nations, destroying all death forever. God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and will take away the shame of God's people on earth, wherever they live. Yhwh has spoken. On that Day it will be said, "This is our God, this is the One for whose liberation we waited, Yhwh is the One in whom we had hoped!"

Children's Gathering Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me"
Children's Time: Lynette Janzen

Offering Prayer / Offertory

Offering can be e-transferred to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com or dropped in the baskets on your way out of the sanctuary.

Sharing Joys and Concerns / Prayer of the Church

Hymn: Blue/HWB #391 "God, whose form is all creation"

OFFERING

391 God, whose farm is all creation

STUTT GART 87. 87

1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion,
 2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing,
 3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing,

take the grat - i - tude we give. Take the fin - est
 hopes and fears of sun and rain, all our think - ing,
 all our cal - en - dar of care in these crops of

of our har - vest, crops we grow that all may live.
 plan - ning, wait - ing, rip - ened in this fruit and grain.
 your cre - a - tion, take, O God; they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, *BBC Hymn Book*, 1951
 Copyright © Estate of John Arlott

Music: attributed to C. F. Witt, *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; adapted by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said,
2 “The kingdom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family’s heir; 3 but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn’t come. 4 The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, ‘I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.’ 5 But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, 6 and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. 7 The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town. 8 “ Then the ruler said to the workers, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don’t deserve the honor. 9 Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.’ 10 The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests. 11 “The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table, and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. 12 ‘My friend,’ said the ruler, ‘why are you here without a wedding garment?’ But the guest was silent. 13 Then the ruler said to the attendants, ‘ Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “Many are called, but few are chosen.”

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9 (*Inclusive Bible*)

4 Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near. 6 Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. 7 Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, decent, admirable, virtuous or worthy of praise. 9 Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

Response to the Scripture:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Song: “The Wedding Banquet”

“The Wedding Banquet”

CHORUS: I cannot come.
I cannot come to the banquet,
Don't trouble me now.
I have married a wife.
I have bought me a cow.
I have fields and commitments,
That cost a pretty sum.
Pray, hold me excused,
I cannot come.

A certain man held a feast on his fine estate in town.
He laid a festive table and he wore a wedding gown.
He sent invitations to his neighbors far and wide.
But when the meal was ready, each of them replied:

CHORUS

The master rose up in anger, called his servants by name, said:
"Go into the town, fetch the blind and the lame,
Fetch the peasant and the pauper for this I have willed.
My banquet must be crowded, and my table must be filled.

CHORUS

When all the poor had assembled, there was still room to spare.
So the master demanded: "Go search ev'ry where,
To the highways and byways and force them to come in.
My table must be filled before the banquet can begin.

CHORUS

Now God has written a lesson for the rest of mankind.
If we're slow in responding, He may leave us behind.
He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day.
When the Lord and Master calls us, be certain not to say:

CHORUS

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Sermon: **“The Kingdom of God is a Party”** Patty Friesen
Isaiah 25:1, 4-9, Matthew 22:1-10

Tony Campolo, a dynamic Christian speaker told this story at a Mennonite Youth Convention in Philadelphia in 1993 and it has stuck ever since. In Tony's

words, "When I travel across continents to speak at conventions, I find myself awake at odd hours of the morning, so at 2:00 a.m. one time in Honolulu, I went out to find an all-night diner for breakfast. I struck up a conversation with the short-order cook over pancakes. The cafe was pretty quiet except for a few sleeping drunks. Eventually a group of loud prostitutes came into the place, teasing and cursing. One said, "Leave me alone, it's my birthday tomorrow." "What are you going to do for your birthday?" The others teased. "I don't know," she said. "Probably nothing."

The group eventually left and I asked the cook, "Do they come in every night?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Whose that one that has the birthday?" "Doris," he growled. "Why do you want to know?" I said, "I think we should have a birthday party for Doris tomorrow. I'll take care of the decorations." The cook harrumphed, "'I've got the cake."

So at 2:00 a.m. the next morning, I hung a few streamers and balloons. The cook proudly finished decorating the cake at the back. We woke up the drunks to help sing and in came Doris with her group. She stopped and stared and we all burst into a raucous Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday

Dear Doris..."She burst into tears. "No one has ever given me a birthday party before. Why would you do this?"

I said, "Well, I'm a Christian who believes God likes to have a good party."
"There's no church like that," she said. "I'd go if there was one."

Churches should have more parties! The invitation to discipleship is an invitation to celebrate a God who blesses us. But Jesus tells a striking and troubling story in which all the invited guests to a dinner party at the last minute refuse to come. So the host rounds up a mixture of street people, who find themselves guests at a party they had never dreamed of attending. The wedding banquet story was so popular that it circulated in a variety of forms in early Christianity. It is a dramatic story – who refuses to go to a wedding? Refusal of a king's invitation, especially, is equivalent to rebellion. But the king is patient and does not retaliate, but sends a second group of slaves who are then killed.

While dinner waits, the king wages war, kills those who had dishonoured and rebelled against him, and burns "their" city, presumably also his own. Most scholars see this as Matthew's view of the destruction of Jerusalem, rather than a realistic

representation of who God is. Sadly the festival house is still empty. A third group of slaves is sent, representing the prophetic Christian missionaries, with a new invitation to those on the street. Those who are "gathered in" are both bad and good. Matthew uses "call" in the sense of initial invitation to become a disciple.

Whether one is actually "chosen" or whether one actually chooses themselves to dwell in the house of the Lord depends on wearing the right wedding clothes which means manifesting authentic Christian faith in deeds of love and justice. (New Interpreter's Commentary)

God wants us to be thankful for what we have received and reminds us of whom we are supposed to be thankful with. Ours is a vertical and horizontal religion. Our thanksgiving heavenward is expressed outwards towards others because God wants us to pass on the grace that has been given to us. Anyone who reads the Old Testament will find a God who desires to give us the best and blesses us as long as we share it with the marginal in our midst. Anybody who reads the New Testament will discover a Jesus who loved to party with publicans and all kinds of left-out people. The lepers of society found Someone who would eat and drink

with them. And while the solemnly pious could not relate to what he was about, those lonely people who usually didn't get invited to parties took to Jesus with excitement. (Tony Campolo, The Kingdom of God is a Party)

Taking the scriptures to heart about celebrating with outsiders, John Carlson, a Lutheran minister in Minnesota was fed up with the infamous Senior High School Prom, with dates, expensive outfits, pictures, limos, fancy dinner and dancing – the heartbreaking event of North American teenagers who can't afford the party or can't get a date. He had it with the notion of a Prom for the Pretty and Popular and he started what he called the Reject Prom. You were not allowed to have a date to go to the Reject Prom and there was no alcohol.

It was the same night as the traditional prom but turned out to be a real blowout party that outshone the traditional prom. Each year the Reject Prom grew and gained publicity. Timex gave watches to the kids who attended and soon other businesses got on the bandwagon, giving out interesting gifts and souvenirs. Soon the popular kids were opting to go to the Reject Prom. The kingdom of God is like that.

We benefit when we pause to honor God and enjoy the present moment and those relationships that touch our lives. Celebration that grows out of our life experiences brings with it a message of hope. It empowers. To stop and enjoy the moment at hand gives perspective, helps one to prioritize and to see new possibilities. Celebration gives encouragement and restores confidence in the struggle at hand.

The celebration of a God who blesses us with life and salvation is not only for the here and now but Isaiah establishes the celebration of God as the human destination for time eternal. "God has prepared for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, food rich and succulent, and fine, aged wines. On this mountain, God will remove the mourning veil covering all people, the shroud covering all nations, destroying all death forever. God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and will take away the shame of God's people on earth, wherever they live. On that Day it will be said, This is our God, this is the One for whose liberation we waited. Yahweh is the One in whom we had hoped!" (Isaiah 25:6-9)

Let's pray: Our God who gives us more than we ask for or imagine, help us to receive the abundance of your grace with thanksgiving that we pour out the same grace on others. Amen.

Benediction: Isaiah 25:9 This is our God on whom we have waited, let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.

Sung Benediction: Blue/HWB #457 "Be present at our table Lord"

457 Be present at our table, Lord

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

1 Be pre - sent at our ta - ble, Lord. Be
2 We thank thee, Lord, for this, our food, for

here and ev - 'ry - where a - dored. These mer - cies bless and
life, and health, and ev - 'ry good. Let man - na to our

grant that we *may feast in par - a - dise with thee.
souls be giv'n - the bread of life sent down from heav'n.

**For those people worshipping with us here at church, please remain in your seats until the ushers indicate that it is your turn to exit. We ask that you move directly to the parking lot to ensure physical distancing. Thanks for your help in keeping us all safe.*

Spoken Benediction: (Isaiah 25:9) "This is our God on whom we have waited, let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation."