

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Giving Options are in the back, online, or scanning the QR Code from the screen. Our special offering for March is Old town Mission. We are collecting contributions to help the help kids that cannot afford to go on the awards field trip at Daniel Bright Elementary if anyone wants to help out;
- Learn to Knit / Crochet Group starts on Monday, March 23rd at 10AM in the Fellowship Atrium.
- The United Women of Faith invite everyone to a Birding Lecture at 1PM on Tuesday, March 17th;
- NO Pastor's bible study until after Easter;
- We really need volunteers to help with slides and live streaming. *(Girls, it would be a great opportunity to do a skit wearing all kinds of hats and running around to get the point across, or something like that. You all could have fun with it)*

FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE/SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come into the light of God.

P: Christ's brightness will guide our way.

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L: Come into the wisdom of God.

P: The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.

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L: Come into the praise of God.

P: Worship opens new doors in our hearts.

UNISON PRAYER

Shepherd of love, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling open the doors of our minds to perceive as you perceive.

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Message for Sunday, March 15, 2026
Scripture: Psalm 26:10; Matthew 14:23
Title: Solitude

Open our lives to love as you love.

**Open our world to become the world you envision for your
creation.**

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In the light of your love, we pray.

Amen.

OFFERING LEAD IN/OFFERING/SONG

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 46:10; MATTHEW 14: 23

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the
mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there
alone,

MESSAGE: “SOLITUDE”

Commentaries on Psalm 46-10

This verse serves as a reminder that even when the earth gives way. God remains in control, fighting on behalf of his people. How relevant this is to today. I have strength when I focus on God, God is always with us.

Be still (Raphah) a Hebrew term implies dropping weapons, letting go, relaxing, or ceasing when trying to control uncontrollable situations.

No matter what was happening around Jesus, God was his refuge and strength.

A favorite term of mine that the AA meetings use “Let go and let God.”

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When we are still with God the following occurs

1. We find rest.

2. We discover who he is
3. We become small and he becomes Big
4. We find peace
5. His whispers are heard
6. He is in control
7. We begin to trust
8. We surrender our will and accept his
9. We can let go and let God be God

Jesus frequently withdrew to lonely or desolate places for prayer, especially before significant ministry moments as read in Matthew 14-23 after feeding the multitudes after sending them home he, Jesus went up into the hills by himself to pray. It was night and he was alone. It was there he was seeking solitude which was important for Jesus. He made room in his busy schedule to be alone with the Father. In hopefully our practice of spending time with God helps to deepen our relationship with God and helps us

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to equip to meet life challenges and struggles. So, I encourage to develop the discipline of spending time along with God. This practice for me is after my day is over and the house has become quiet, and I've become disengaged from all of the external noise. It is my hope that this practice will help me become more like Christ.

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In using quotes from Mother Teresa "Everything Starts from Prayer and her meditations on Spiritual Life People of All Faiths (Slide One)

It is very hard to pray if one does not know how. We must help ourselves to learn. The most important thing is silence. We need to find God and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. If we really want to pray, we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks.

(Slide Two)

Silence of the Heart, not only of the mouth-that too is necessary. Then you can God everywhere: In the closing of the door, in the person who needs you, in the birds that sing, in the flowers, the animals-that silence which is wonder and praise.

(Slide Three)

If we are careful of silence, it will be easy to pray. There is so much talk, so much repetition, so much carrying on of tales in words and in writing. Our prayer life suffers so much because our hearts are not silent.

(Slide Four)

Interior silence is very difficult, but we must make the effort. In silence we will find new energy and true unity. The energy of God will be ours to do all things well.

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These are only two steps toward prayer, but if we never make the first step with determination, we will not reach the last one: The presence of God

If you sincerely want to learn to pray keep silence.

As many of you know I love the outdoors and enjoy camping, hiking, and kayaking and I know the real reason is my closeness to the outdoors but most importantly to God. I can look around at the stars and feel his presence. The flowing of the water, the sounds of birds and flowers and know he is our creator of all things beautiful, and it is so easy to give him praise for the awesome God he is and grateful he is my friend and always available to me, wherever I go to be with me and embrace me with his outstretched arms.

Thank you Lord for all my blessings and continue to help me to deepen our relationship through prayer and silence.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, I quiet my heart before You now. I stop striving, I stop worrying, and I lay down my need to control the outcome. I chose to trust that You are God. You are sovereign over my life, my family, and this world, even when everything seems to be in chaos. I rest in your presence, knowing You are my refuge and strength. Be exalted in my life, Lord Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

SONG

CLOSING BENEDICTION

Let go and if you are holding on to something which you need to let go of it! Scribble it down and take it to God.

SONG