

03-02-2025 Words of Worship, Morning Prayer

Welcome –

It's a pleasure to welcome Ken Rodgers to our worship service this morning. He is a colleague of Karen Unruh at Hesston College in the music department where he collaborates beautifully at the piano with all kinds of choirs and vocalists...

We're eager to hear what you have to share with us, Ken and we so appreciate you being here this morning in the midst of your very busy life!

Opportunities for Celebration and Service or anything to share for a prayer of joy or concern?

- Fat Tuesday
- Bring your attention to the announcement about the Jr Hi fundraiser next week being cancelled. I have a message from the GMA to share as well...(read the letter) This message is also in the MailChimp that Ruth sent out yesterday.

Let's join in the **Call to Worship**

Gathering Hymns

Children's Story

Worship Music – choir

Morning Prayer –

Loving God, we come to you this morning with hearts full – full of gratitude for successful and positive experiences of the past week, hearts full of the hopes we have for things to come, hearts full of frustration and fear about much of what's happening in our world in the current political climate, hearts full of wondering what the coming days and weeks will bring. In these moments, we are reminded that our hope and trust is in you. You, God, are the Creator of each of us, of every living being, of the earth and the solar system. As we look into the night sky and see the beauty of the moon aligned with several planets we're grateful for your creativity and the love with which you created all that is.

God, we bring to you what's on our hearts.

We bring deep concern for the health and well-being of the earth itself and its inhabitants. As futile as it may seem, we continue to pray for your peace with justice. In Ukraine, in Gaza and the West Bank, in Sudan, in the DRC, the cities and towns of our own country where there is violence and fear, in every corner and pocket of the world.

We pray for the Burkholder family as they're experiencing such extremes recently of happiness at the celebration of Caleb and Jayla's wedding last weekend and now deep grief at the sudden passing of Glenn, Brian's dad. Be close to each member of that family as they travel and spend time together in the coming days.

We continue pray for Steve and Sandy as they continue in Phoenix with treatments at the Mayo Clinic. Be with Steve as his body responds to the medication and with Sandy in the supporting role. Be close to both of them with your Spirit of healing and comfort.

We pray for Ronda as she spends time in Texas this weekend with her son. Grant them your wisdom and sense of clarity for how to move forward with his care and health.

God, as we enter the season of Lent, may we and all who follow Jesus be particularly attuned to you, that our spirits might align with your Holy Spirit in bold humility, open to your leading, your wisdom, your transformation in our lives and in this world.

Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us... Our Father, who art in heaven...

Let's continue to worship now by giving our **offerings** of money.

Offering Prayer –

With grateful hearts, O God, we return a portion of the goodness we've received from you. Bless these gifts of money and all the gifts you've given us as we return them in our lives.

Scripture –

Psalm 137 – a Psalm of Lament over the destruction of Jerusalem.

¹ By the rivers of Babylon—

there we sat down, and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows^[a] there

we hung up our harps.

³ For there our captors

asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

⁴ How could we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.

⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem's fall,
how they said, “Tear it down! Tear it down!
Down to its foundations!”

⁸ O daughter Babylon, you devastator!^[b]
Happy shall they be who pay you back
what you have done to us!

⁹ Happy shall they be who take your little ones
and dash them against the rock!

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Hebrews 12:14-15

14Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.

Benediction –

Let us go now as God's beloved, calling forth God's wisdom and peace. Be quick with a response of singing and thanksgiving to God. And each day, let's put on the garment of compassion, forgiveness, goodness of heart. Above all, before all, let us cover ourselves with God's love. Amen.