

The Ministry of Reconciliation

DECEMBER 9, 2018

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE GREATEST OF ALL GIFTS: THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

2 Corinthians 5-7



COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

#196 UMH

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release
us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. Below the star, the silhouettes of three figures are visible against the horizon, suggesting a nativity scene. The overall mood is serene and spiritual.

A CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 122:1-9
#845 UMH

- L: I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
- C: Our feet were standing within
your gates, O Jerusalem!

- L: Jerusalem is built as a city and is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to give thanks to the name of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel.

- C: Thrones for judgment were set there, the thrones of the house of David.
- L: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

- C: “May they prosper who love you! Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!”
- L: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you!”

- C: “For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good! Amen.

This Week's

a n n o u n c e m e n t s

A person wearing a white, flowing robe stands in a body of water, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. The water splashes around them, and a white dove is visible in the sky above. The scene is set against a clear blue sky and a dark, forested shoreline in the background.

Joys & Concerns

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE



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.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

TITHES & OFFERINGS

ALL I HAVE IS YOURS



Praise God from whom all
blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here
below

Praise Him above ye heavenly
hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost. Amen.





The Lily of the Valley

TFWS: #2062

- I've found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,
- He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
- The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see

- All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
- In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay;
- He tells me every care on Him to roll.

- He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,
- He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

- He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
- In temptation He's my strong and mighty tow'r;
- I've all for Him forsaken, and all my idols torn

- From my heart and now He keeps me by His pow'r.
- Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore,
- Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.

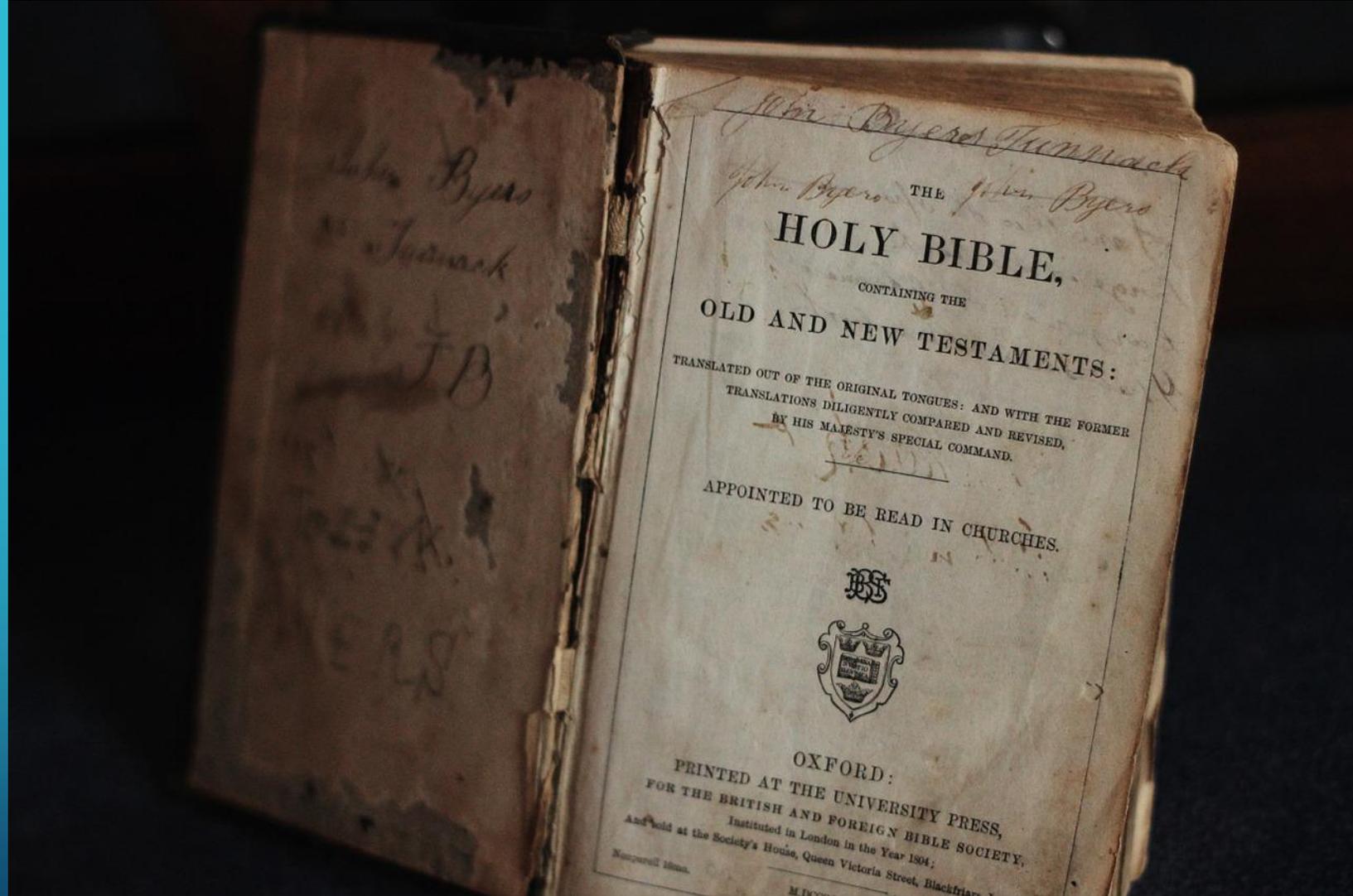
- He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,
- He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

- He'll never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
- While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
- A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,

- From His manna He my hungry soul shall fill.
- Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,
- Where rivers of delight shall ever roll.

- He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star,
- He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

OLD
TESTAMENT:
JEREMIAH
1:4-12



THE
NEW TESTAMENT
OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST,
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK: AND WITH THE
TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED, BY
MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND.

Appointed to be read in Churches.

2 CORINTHIANS
5:11-21

Today's Message

The Christmas Season Message Series

Part III:

The Greatest of All Gifts,

The Ministry of Reconciliation

Pastor Gary Spraker

- **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE –**
- **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

•The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

•**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

• It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

• You formed us in your image and
breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our
love failed, your love remained
steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign
God,
and spoke to us through the
prophets.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power
and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son
Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death,
and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and
death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave
himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is
given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new
covenant, poured out for you and
for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me."

And so,

in remembrance of these your

mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and

thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
gathered here, and on these gifts
of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and
blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the
body of Christ, redeemed by his
blood.

By your Spirit make us one with
Christ, one with each other, and one
in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly
banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy
Church,
all honor and glory is yours,
almighty Father,
now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

- **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 that trespass against us.**
 - **Lead us not into temptation,**
 - **but deliver us from evil.**
- **For thine is the kingdom, the power,**
 - **and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**



Go forth in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy
Spirit be with you all.

Amen.



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
UMH #733

**I want to walk as a child of the
light**

I want to follow Jesus

**God sent the stars to give light to
the world**

The star of my life is Jesus

In Him there is no darkness at all

**The night and the day are both
alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of
God**

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God

I want to look at Jesus

**Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine
on my path**

**And show me the way to the
Father**

In Him there is no darkness at all

**The night and the day are both
alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of
God**

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ

I want to be with Jesus

When we have run with patience

the race

We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him there is no darkness at all

**The night and the day are both
alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of
God**

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

THANK

YOU

GOD

