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show God's  
love in action.

**#UMCORSunday**



**UMCOR**

United Methodist Committee on Relief

[www.umciving.org/UMCOR](http://www.umciving.org/UMCOR)

**July 4th, 2021**

**UMCOR Special Sunday Worship**

*Twin Towers United Methodist Church*

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## **WORSHIP GUIDE**

*Before you begin your time of worship, find a comfortable place to be and gather whatever you might need: your Bible, candles, something to write on and with, your computer/connected device (if you intend to listen to music online), etc. Feel free to adapt this worship guide in any way that makes best sense to you and those you might be gathered with. (Consider inviting someone – a friend, a family member – to worship with you.) Commit to spending the next hour with God.*

**PRELUDE** - Listen and sing along to a song or hymn that blesses and centers your spirit!

**WELCOME** –

We have powerful hands and feet. Lord, what are you calling these hands and feet to do?

**Our world needs God’s healing touch and restoration.**

**Wherever our journey goes, God is with us.**

**Yes, we are seeking God’s healing touch.**

**We are being sent forth to do your will!**

Today, we are asking God to send us into the world, two by two, to witness to holy boldness. With these hands and feet, God can heal hearts, transform lives, renew souls, raise us from death, and grant us all a new day!

**Yes, we are seeking God’s healing touch!**

**Send forth a new witness of faith to all the world!**

What is our call today? To worship an awesome God who sends forth healing to a hurting world.

**Let us worship God this day as new life comes forth in the name of Jesus Christ!**

**OPENING PRAYER** -

Lord of mystery and community, you have called us here this day to remind us of the mission journey you set before us. Help us to pay attention to the words of Jesus as he sent out his disciples on a mission of healing and compassion. Remind us that success is not measured in the cures, but in the striving. Enable us to truly be your disciples in this world.

Move us out of our comfort zones, O God, out of our reticence, out of all that keeps us from responding to Jesus’ sending. Bless us with your holy boldness and your extravagant love for the world. On this UMCOR Sunday, illuminate hope in the midst of disaster, illuminate love in the midst of fear, illuminate peace in the midst of violence. Amen.

## OPENING HYMN - He Came Down, TFWs 2085

Listen here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ATqIg\\_QxG8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ATqIg_QxG8)

He came down that we may have love; (x3)  
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; (x3)  
He came down that we may have joy (x3)

## SCRIPTURE - Mark 6:1-13 / The Message

<sup>1-2</sup> He left there and returned to his hometown. His disciples came along. On the Sabbath, he gave a lecture in the meeting place. He stole the show, impressing everyone. “We had no idea he was this good!” they said. “How did he get so wise all of a sudden, get such ability?” <sup>3</sup> But in the next breath they were cutting him down: “He’s just a carpenter—Mary’s boy. We’ve known him since he was a kid. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude, and Simon, and his sisters. Who does he think he is?” They tripped over what little they knew about him and fell, sprawling. And they never got any further. <sup>4-6</sup> Jesus told them, “A prophet has little honor in his hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child.” Jesus wasn’t able to do much of anything there—he laid hands on a few sick people and healed them, that’s all. He couldn’t get over their stubbornness. He left and made a circuit of the other villages, teaching.

<sup>7-8</sup> Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions: <sup>8-9</sup> “Don’t think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple. <sup>10</sup> “And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave. <sup>11</sup> “If you’re not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don’t make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way.” <sup>12-13</sup> Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

**LISTEN** - *We were thrilled to hear reflections from **Burt & Jane Yin**, faithful disaster relief-sharers. You are encouraged to take a moment to consider how you, a disciple, are being sent forth into the world, two by two, to bring healing, grace, and mercy. How will you act on this commissioning?*

## **HYMN OF RESPONSE - We Labor Unto Glory / The Porter's Gate**

*Listen and watch: <https://youtu.be/cRuPZCXShg4>*

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE** – *Spend time in prayer. What did you hear for yourself through today's scripture and reflection? Talk to God about it. Then lift up the joys and concerns that are in your heart. You might write them down, speak them aloud, or pray for them in silence.*

*We would be honored to pray with you and for you.*

*Please send a note via text, mail, or email or give a call to our Healing Prayer Team.*

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**– *How might you offer yourself and all that you have to God this week? How are you being invited to practice generosity? Spend a moment listening for God's direction.*

*You are invited to contribute financially towards the purpose and ministry of TTUMC. We are a congregation committed to being conduits of God's healing in our neighborhood and beyond, and in so doing, impact the last and the least. You can contribute by mailing in a check, dropping off cash, or giving online (visit [www.twintowersumc.org](http://www.twintowersumc.org)). **You are also invited today to give further to support the shared work and mission of UMCOR.***

*Take a moment and do that now.*

## **CLOSING HYMN - "Be God's" by Danielle Rose**

*Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvddWibgS2E>*

Where the world is merciless,  
be God's mercy.  
Where the world is hopeless,  
be God's hope.  
Where there is injustice, be God's justice.  
Where there is sadness, be God's joy.  
Where the world is doubting, be God's  
faith.  
Where there is ingratitude, be God's grace.  
Where there is confusion, be God's truth.  
Where there is weakness,  
be God's strength.

*Refrain:*

Let your life change the world  
one person at a time.  
let your life be the presence  
of our lord Jesus Christ  
as the bread becomes his body,  
we can be a living sign  
with god's love, change the world  
with your life.

2. Where the world is wounded,  
be God's healing.

Where the world is weeping,  
be God's song.  
Where there is despairing,  
be God's beauty.  
Where the world is crumbling,  
be God's rock.  
Where there is no tenderness,  
be God's child.  
Where there is loneliness, be God's smile.  
Where the world is dying, be God's life.  
Where there is darkness, be God's light.

3. If you want the world to change,  
be God's love.

Use your gifts to bless this day,  
be God's love.  
God has greater plans for you,  
be God's love.  
Plans to make a saint of you!  
Be God's love!  
Heaven will fall down to earth,  
thank you, Father.  
When you live a life of love,  
thank you, Son.  
The lame will walk, the blind will see,  
Thank you Spirit.  
Jesus dwells in me!

**BENEDICTION** - Go in peace and grace, surrounded by the mighty and transformative love of God, to serve and heal the world!

**NOW GO AND PASS CHRIST'S PEACE!**

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE:** Mark 2:3-5, 11

Please make note of these additional invites and news:

- **Praying for Dine & Connect** - we gather Monday, July 5th, to cook, to serve, and to connect with neighbors who are unhoused and/or food insecure! Great thanks to day-of volunteers and UMW bakers.
- **Palestine/Israel Learning** - Many of you joined the last Friends of Wadi Foquin webinar about what is happening in Palestine/Israel, particularly around land confiscation and annexation. Next Saturday, July 10th, at 10:00 a.m. there will be a follow up webinar to go further. The focus will move out from the village of Wadi Foquin to throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This webinar will feature Dr. Hatem Bazian, a renowned educator, community organizer, social justice activist, and prolific author, and Ata Manasra. You can register in advance [here](#).
- **Miracles Continues!** Our summer worship series will continue next Sunday, July 11th, as we explore the story of the paralytic and his friends who bring him to Jesus. We look forward to hearing from Joyce Simmonds, member of our Healing Prayer Team. Please do note: Thursday sessions will rest this week (July 8th) and resume on the 15th.

- **I'll be Away** - Our family will be traveling to the East Coast to scatter Mom's ashes this week. I will be away from July 6th - 14th and not checking email. To share a prayer request or need, please connect with Leigh Miller, liaison to our Healing Prayer Team. For any pastoral emergencies, please connect with P. Michael Yoshii.
- As mentioned in worship, **we are launching a joint Fire Bucket Challenge** starting today. Fire season is on its way and we have been challenged to assemble **50 Fire Buckets on August 1st** for use by our Annual Conference's Disaster Response Ministry. Sixteen items are needed in each bucket. Will you help meet our challenge? Contact P. Emily for more information. All items will be dropped off at Lake Merritt UMC on August 1st between 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Peace, Emily