



# **Worship Celebration**

## **March 19, 2023**

*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, 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!

**OPENING HYMN** – “Amazing Grace”

UMH #378

*Listen here for a gift featuring Lucca, Lucca’s mom Laurie, Anne, Brian, Rod, Ysrael and those in the building.*

**OPENING PRAYER** - Led by Shirley.

*Due to technical difficulties, the audio recording is not available this week.*

Let us join our hearts and spirits in prayer.

God of light, we come to you in need of healing, for the eyes of our hearts are clouded. Embrace us in your love, touch us with your Word, and transform us by your Spirit. Make us whole, so that we might live new lives. Bless us in our worship, that we may become children of light. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** – Luke 18:9-14 and Luke 15:11-32 (NRSV), led by Shirley.

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

**LISTEN – Sermon**– *You can listen to the sermon from Pastor Akesa [here](#).*

**HYMN of RESPONSE** – “Jesus, Remember Me” UMH #488  
*Listen [here](#) for a gift featuring Lucca, Lucca’s mom Laurie, Anne, Brian, Rod, Ysrael and those in the building.*

**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)).*

## **CLOSING HYMN – “Wonderful Words of Life”**

UMH #600

*Listen [here](#) for a gift featuring Lucca, Lucca's mom Laurie, Anne, Brian, Rod, Ysrael and those in the building..*

## **BENEDICTION**

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

### **Please make note of the following updates and invitations:**

**Lenten 40-Day Reading Plan on the Gospel of Luke** – Please continue reading the Gospel of Luke as part of your Lenten practice this year which each Sunday's message will be based, as well as the book study. The 40-day Gospel of Luke reading plan is available [here](#).

**Lenten Time of Prayer on Wednesdays** – during Lent you're invited to join P. Akesa on Wednesdays between 12:15 and 12:45 p.m. to connect and pray via Zoom by clicking [here](#). If you have challenges with the above link, here are the Zoom log-in details:

*Meeting ID: 827 9929 9325*

*Passcode: Prayer*

**“Healing the Sick” book study** – You are invited to join the Healing Prayer Team on a book study of the book *Healing the Sick* by Alex and Hannah Absalom that will begin Thursday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. and held every Thursday via Zoom facilitated by Jen Tellier and Deacon Judith Pruess-Mellow. The book will introduce not only how to pray for healing in real-life situations, but also how to respond with love and wisdom when there is both success and disappointment. Please register by clicking [here](#) to receive the Zoom details and order your book.

**Refreshment Sign-ups After Sunday Morning Worship** – Those of you who attend worship service in person are invited to please stop by for a cup of coffee and fellowship in the Wesley Room after Sunday services around 10:30ish. Brian has prepared and posted a sign-up sheet if you'd like to bring a favorite refreshment to share with others during our time of fellowship. Please click [here](#) to see where the sign-up sheet is posted in the Wesley Room. Thank you!

**Dine & Connect on Monday, 4/3/23** – Volunteers needed on Monday, 4/3/23, 12pm-3pm Cooking & Plating; 4pm-5:30pm Serving & Cleaning Up. We serve the first Monday of each month, where we will be preparing and serving 150 dinners. If you can help on 4/3/2023, please click [here](#) for more information and please sign up.

**Midway Shelter Needs Our Help** – We support Midway Shelter, the only women and children shelter operating in Alameda, by providing 30 meals twice a month (2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of each month). Donors can participate as financial donors or as meal preparers. To participate, please complete the information by clicking [here](#) and we will contact you. We can really use more help with this critical ministry. Thank you!

**Alameda Warming Shelter** – The shelter is currently open 7 nights—and days—a week through April 2023 and need volunteers in two areas. First, to staff days in two shifts: 8 am – 12 pm and 12 – 4 pm; with 2 people per shift. There is coverage for evenings and nights (by paid staff from the Housing Coalition of the East Bay and the Village of Love). Second area where help is needed is by providing dinners and breakfasts. If you are able to volunteer for either of the shifts available through the end of March 2023, please sign-up by clicking [here](#). If you would like to provide dinners or breakfasts, please sign-up by clicking [here](#). The Warming Shelter is hosted at Christ Episcopal, 1700 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda., entering via the parking lot on Grand Street. To learn more, contact 510-832-1382 x123, [warmingcenter@hceb.org](mailto:warmingcenter@hceb.org), or Christ Church at [stephen@christchurchalameda.org](mailto:stephen@christchurchalameda.org).

**Need help with groceries** – If you or you know of anyone who needs help with groceries once a week or once a month, the Alameda Food Bank has a Community Market available for individuals who live or work in the City of Alameda. Please click [here](#) for the QR code and for more information.