

Singing the Hymns of Our Faith
COME, SINNERS, TO THE GOSPEL FEAST

Charles Wesley's hymn "Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast" is an invitation to the spiritual tables we feast on as followers of Jesus Christ. There are two versions: No. 339: hymn of invitation and No. 616: a communion hymn.

The hymn invites us to the weekly feast of Sunday worship. Instead of seeing our Sunday Worship as an obligation or chore, we can see Sunday Worship as a family meal where all are welcome. The first stanza bids us to "let every soul be Jesus' guest," and adds, "Ye need not one be left behind." It is this joyful message of welcome.

The gospel feast is also a feast of salvation: "Come and partake the gospel feast, / be saved from sin, in Jesus rest." When we participate in the Eucharist, we are reminded of the sacrifice our Savior made for us.

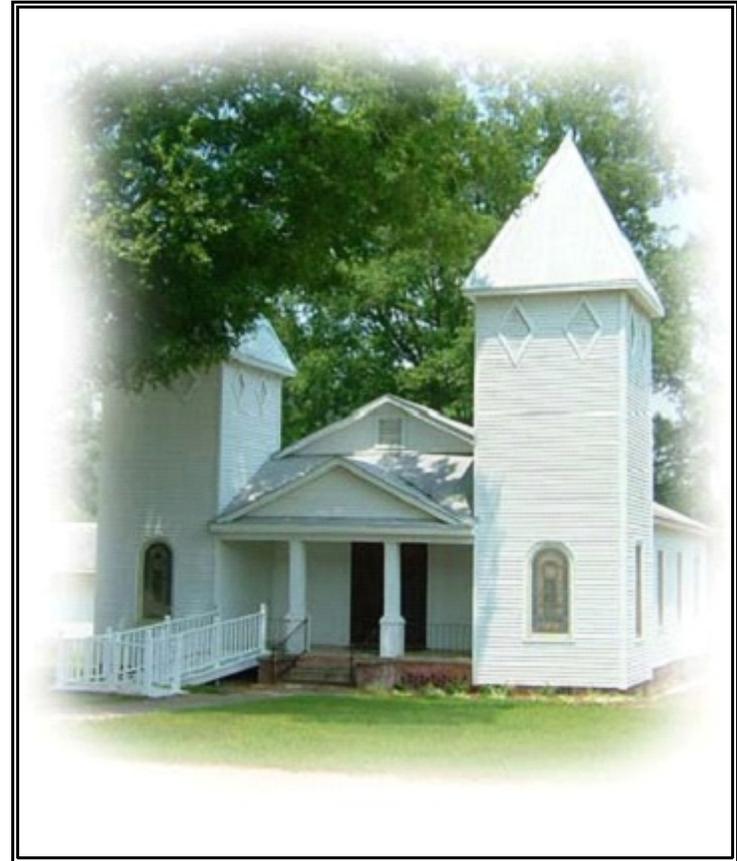
The hymn also presents us with a sense of urgency and eagerness "to be saved." "This is the time, no more delay! This is the Lord's accepted day." "Come to the feast, be saved from sin." This sense of urgency and excitement points to the influence our salvation has on how we live.

Wesley also likens the gospel feast to a place where one finds relief: "Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed, / ye restless wanderers after rest." As Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labor and find rest." Not only do we find rest, but we are enabled to pass that rest on to others who need it.

Self - Examination: Prayerfully ask yourself these questions:

1. Is my Sunday worship a choir or a feast on the goodness of God?
2. Am I feasting on the salvation of God in Jesus Christ? Do I make regular communion, pray daily, read the Bible, do daily acts of mercy?
3. Do I follow Jesus with urgency and eagerness?
4. Do I enjoy the rest and relief Jesus gives me? Or, do I fret trying to make it on my own? What would it take for you to find more of the rest and relief that Jesus gives?

Sing the hymn as an act of worship. Then pray and sing the hymn. Use this time to share with Jesus your answers to the self-examination? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you celebrate where you are strong and make amendment where you need to grow stronger. A recording of both versions with lyrics can be found on the Fork Chapel website at www.forkchapelumc.org.



FORK CHAPEL
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January 6, 2019

The Baptism of Jesus

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

+Pew Bible, NT p. 60

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
With Baptismal Renewal and the Lord's Supper**

Sermon

"Called By Your Name"

+Dr. Gavalas

Prelude

Greeting: Church Concerns

Opening Prayer - The Pastor

*Hymn 57: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Prayers of the People - Linda Young, Liturgist

*Hymn of Invitation 616: "Come. Sinners to the Gospel Feast"

The Great Thanksgiving – The Pastor

Renewal of Baptism Covenant – Hymnal 50

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer - Hymnal 607

Dedication and Communion

As you come for Communion, first dip a finger in the water and touching your forehead say, "Thanks be to God. I have been baptized! The receive Communion.

Hymn 361: "Rock of Ages"

Charge and Blessing

Dismissal Chorus

*"God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you;
with his sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again."*

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7

+Pew Bible, OT p.672

God who shows no partiality, show your favoritism on all your people. Send forth your justice for all to see. Save us your people. **Empower us to preach and testify to your great love and mercy.**

God who makes and keeps covenant with your people, You called us to be a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to set the prisoners free. **Help us to answer your call that these things come to pass.**

God of grace and glory,
We pray for those we name before you....
We pray for those who suffer from pains and sorrows...
We pray for those whose hearts are broken...
We pray for those whose families are fractured...
We pray for those whose lives are ravaged by war...
We pray for those deprived and struggling due to government shutdown...
We pray for those who struggle with poverty, and starvation...

Thank you for hearing our prayers. Thank you for pouring out your Spirit on your son and pouring your spirit out on us too. May we too hear you say to us this day that "This is my son, my daughter, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Amen.

The Peace

The Offering with Doxology

Welcome to All Who Worship with Us Today

We welcome you to worship today. No matter who you are, or what your lifestyle may be, whether you are high on the "hog" or low down in the pits, we welcome you with open hands, open hearts, and open minds. We invite you to join with us in church membership. We promise you an exciting and meaningful way of life in Christ. If you desire to join with us, please meet the pastor at the altar during the last hymn.

Unshakable Hope - A 12 Week Study by Max Lucado

7:00 p.m. each Wednesday: January 9 - April 3

In a trembling, unsteady world, how do you gain stability, find peace, and learn to trust God? This 12 week video Bible study will help you to see your problems in light of God's many promises in Scripture. Our study this week will help us claim the truth that we are created in God's image.

Green County Food Pantry - January Food Items

Dried Peas and Beans - Bring to Church by Jan. 20