

Praying Our Hymns of Faith

"Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire" (UMH 603)

This Wesley hymn was first published in 1740 under the topic "Before reading the scripture." The hymn is remarkable for its use of the metaphors of **fountain, fire, key, and dove** to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit

Sing and pray the hymn daily. Examine your life and spiritual walk by asking: where do I see and feel the Holy Spirit as: (1) a fountain and fire of life and love in my life, (2) the key that opens God's truth to my life, (3) a Dove shining the light shining God's healing forgiveness in the dark corners of my soul. A recording of the hymn is found on the Fork Chapel website at www.forkchapelumc.org

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| 1. Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,
let us thine influence prove;
source of the old prophetic fire,
fountain of life and love. | 3. Expand thy wings, celestial Dove,
brood o'er our nature's night;
on our disordered spirits move,
and let there now be light. |
| 2. Come, Holy Ghost (for moved by
thee the prophets wrote and spoke),
unlock the truth, thyself the key,
unseal the sacred book. | 4. God, through the Spirit we shall
know if thou within us shine, and
sound, with all thy saints below,
the depths of love divine. |

Unshakeable Hope - Small Group Study - Wednesday - 7:00p.m.

Did you know you are an heir of God, a joint heir with Jesus Christ? Come Wednesday night to learn what this means. Read: Roman 8:14-17

Green County Food Pantry - February Food Items

Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta, - Bring to Church by Feb. 17

Swords Stain Glass Window Repair Fund

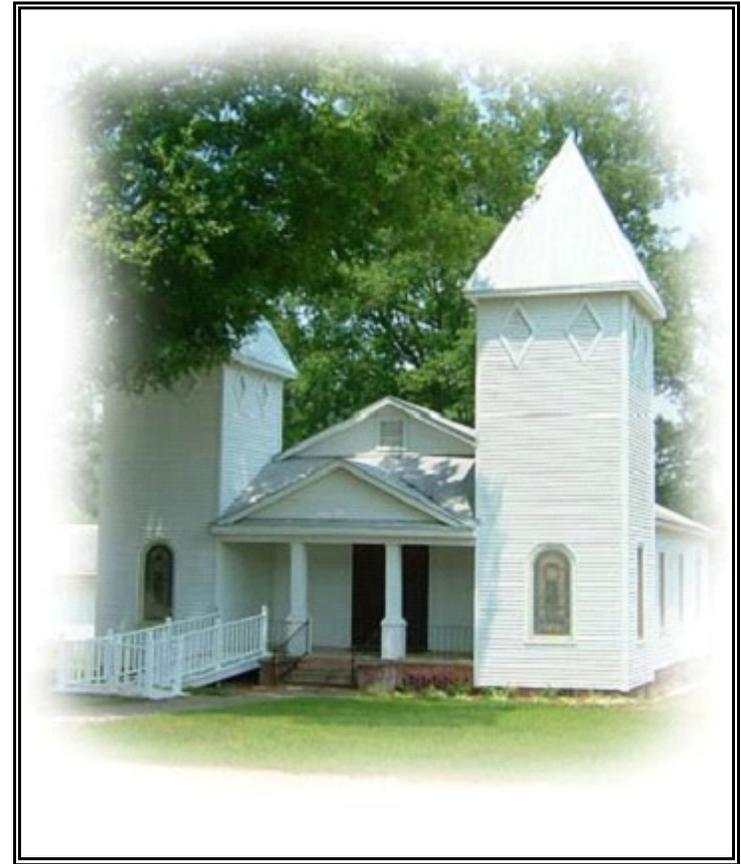
Work begins this week on repairing the Stain Glass Window at Swords UMC as a cost of \$18,000. An anonymous gift of \$2,500 has been given that will match the first \$2,500 given by members and friends of Swords Church. \$1,475 has been given toward meeting the matching gift. Thank you for your support. Mark your gift "Swords Stained Glass Window Fund." Thank you.

Ronald McDonald House Meal - Macon, Georgia

Swords UMC is scheduled to provide the dinner for parents whose children are hospitalized on Tuesday February 12th. The menu is assorted chicken casseroles, so we are asking that any who want make their favorite. Only needs to be enough for a family. For anyone who wishes to help, but cannot go to RMH, they can bring it to the Swords church on Sunday 2/10. If anyone would like to make a dessert, that would be great.

Prayer Leaders Next Sunday, February 3

Swords: Ron Hess Fork Chapel: Bonnie Duvall



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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January 27, 2019

Epiphany 3rd Sunday

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Prelude Church Concerns, Opening Prayer

*Hymn 600: "Wonderful Words of Life"

Special Music: Zandy Cook

Confession and Prayers of the People - Jim Young, Liturgist

Luke 4:14-21: Jesus announces good news to the poor. +Pew Bible, NT p. 436

Enlighten us with your grace and favor, O God, that we may know your Son Jesus and proclaim him among all people. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.** [*personal prayers may be offered here and after each petition*]

Let the light of your countenance shine upon your Church, O Gracious One, that we may serve and testify to the things which we have seen through Christ. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**

Almighty One, send your saving health among all nations, to all who rule or hold authority in the world: May you give us your blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**

Rescue those who are handed over to the unjust and cruel, O Compassionate One, and give them your Word of grace and protection, that all who live in darkness may be delivered into the light. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**

Show us your grace, O Loving One, that we may be obedient to your heavenly vision and endure in the love of Christ to the end. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the light of the Gospel shine throughout the world, and let your healing grace be with those for whom we pray, especially for those we name now before you...

We praise you for your gracious generosity to us as we offer our prayers of thanksgiving, especially for those blessings we name now before you...

Bring into your everlasting light those who have died, especially those of precious memory whom we have given back to you in faith. Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you.**

Pastor: Let us confess together our deepest needs and failures to God: *Oh holy one, day after day the story of your creation is told and night by night your beauty displayed; the heavens declare your praise and all around us are opportunities to glimpse your glory. We confess that sin in the world and in our lives makes it difficult and at times impossible to see your goodness. The Bible declares good news to the poor and healing for the brokenhearted, yet we do not spend much time with your word and so we struggle to see the world through those spectacles of grace. Our prayer lives are often weak and our moral courage wanes. Forgive us our sins and help us join your prophets of old in announcing to a broken world and to our own souls: This is the year of the Lord's favor! [Use this silence for examination of conscience and personal prayers of confession].*

The Pastor's Prayer with Lord's Prayer.

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Offering with Doxology

Duet 603: "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire" +Zandy Cook and the Pastor

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

+Pew Bible, OT 692

Sermon "Everything Depends on Remembering" +Dr. Gavalas

*Hymn 454: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

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."

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. If you desire to join with us, please meet the pastor at the altar during the last hymn.

How To Read Scripture By John Wesley

How did John Wesley read the Bible? The best-known passage where he answers this question is in the preface (§5) to the first volume of his Sermons, which begins:

“I want to know one thing, the way to heaven—how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way: for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! ...Let me be *homo unius libri* [a man of one book]. Here then I am, far from the busy ways of men. I sit down alone: only God is here. In his presence I open, I read his Book; for this end, to find the way to heaven.”

Expanding on his desire for reading and living in the Word of God, Wesley gave the following instruction on how to read this Bible, as taken from his Preface to Explanatory Notes upon the Old Testament:

“If you desire to read the scripture in such a manner as may most effectually answer this end, would it not be advisable,

1. To set apart a little time, if you can, every morning and evening for that purpose?
2. At each time if you have leisure, to read a chapter out of the Old, and one out of the New Testament: if you cannot do this, to take a single chapter, or a part of one?
3. To read this with a single eye, to know the whole will of God, and a fixed resolution to do it? In order to know his will, you should,
4. Have a constant eye to the analogy of faith; the connection and harmony there is between those grand, fundamental doctrines, Original Sin, Justification by Faith, the New Birth, Inward and Outward Holiness.
5. Serious and earnest prayer should be constantly used, before we consult the oracles of God, seeing "scripture can only be understood through the same Spirit whereby it was given." Our reading should likewise be closed with prayer, that what we read may be written on our hearts.
6. It might also be of use, if while we read, we were frequently to pause, and examine ourselves by what we read, both with regard to our hearts, and lives.

This would furnish us with matter of praise, where we found God had enabled us to conform to his blessed will, and matter of humiliation and prayer, where we were conscious of having fallen short.

And whatever light you then receive, should be used to the uttermost, and that immediately. Let there be no delay. Whatever you resolve, begin to execute the first moment you can. So shall you find this word to be indeed the power of God unto present and eternal salvation.”

Some pastoral hints on reading and praying the scripture

I find it helpful to have the spiritual discipline of structure for reading and praying the scripture. The following plan works for me, maybe it will work for you. My plan has six components:

Time: We are creatures of habit. Pick a time when you are at your best, more alert self.

Place: Use the same place. Set it apart with your Bible and a candle. Regard your place as where you meet God in his word.

Plan: I use the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings as the basis for my Bible study. The Daily Lectionary will take you through the Bible in two years. Goggle <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C> for a copy.

Amendment of life: Be honest where the scripture comforts you. Praise God. Count your blessing.

But also, be honest where the scripture confronts you. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reads, “16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Ask yourself, what is the scripture before you teaching you, or rebuking you, or correcting you, or training you in right-living(righteousness)?

Silence and meditation: sit quietly, center down, and listen the Holy Spirit’s affirmation of your time in his word. With practice, you will know when the Holy Spirit is calling you comfort or confrontation.

Pray: begin and end your time with the Word in Prayer.