

A Year to Praise

This year at Arbor Dale we are going to ask the Lord to open our lips so that we might sing his praise. Here is why. We were created to praise God and enjoy him forever. We were saved to praise God and fill creation with the song of his love. We will spend eternity gathered with people from every tribe and tongue singing praises. So the more we open our hearts to bless God the more we will get in on the blessing.

To help us tune our hearts we are going to focus on singing 12 different hymns, songs or spiritual songs. We are going to repeat each of these for one month. The hope is that can learn these hymns by heart and sing them from our hearts.

This month we are starting with ***Come Thou Fount***. This hymn was written by Robert Roberson in 1757 when he was 22 years old. The main theme of the hymn is God's grace. The most famous line is probably *'prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.'* Roberson wrote the hymn after hearing George Whitfield preach. He had been a barber's apprentice and a member of a notorious gang of hoodlums who lived in debauchery. He became a great preacher-scholar. The hymn references 1 Samuel 7:12 in which the prophet sets up an *'Ebenezer stone'* to remind the people of God's faithfulness *'saying hitherto the Lord has helped us.'*

Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today and would love to keep in touch. We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd grade continue to worship upstairs. After worship, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by Arbor Dale's Faithfulness Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday : Joy Group. Contact Brie Young-Powell 540-969-9523.

FAF needs volunteers for distribution (Fridays) and truck unloading/stocking (Thursdays). Sign up at <http://www.feedingaveryfamilies.org/volunteer/> and click on the link near the top of the page.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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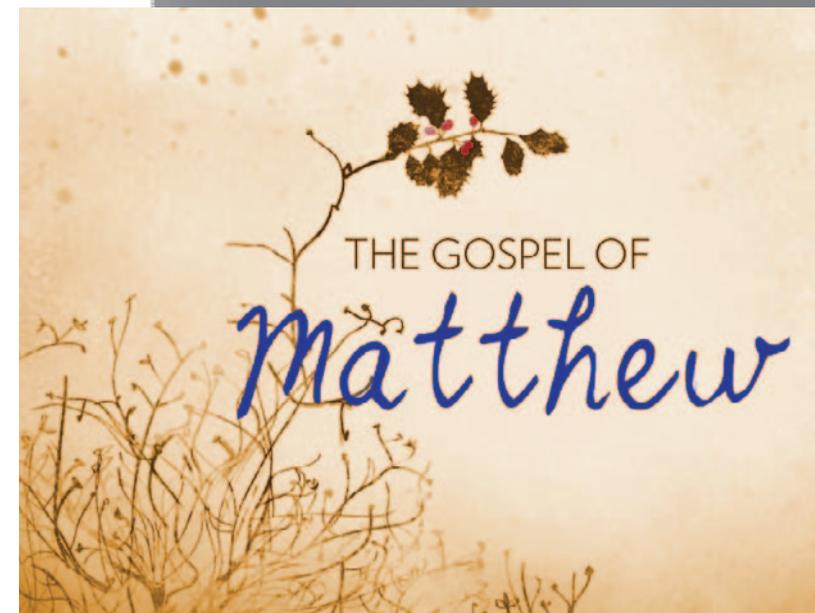
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January 5, 2020

* Congregation Stands

Prayer of Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
 And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
 Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
 creator of all;
 To you be glory and praise for ever!
 You founded the earth in the beginning and
 the heavens are the work of your hands.
 As we rejoice in the gift of your presence
 among us, let the light of your love
 always shine in our hearts
 and your praises ever be on our lips,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
 Blessed be God for ever!

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with You.

All: And also with you.* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 150* **OPENING HYMN** #790 We Gather Together* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Most merciful God, We confess we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have acted in our own self interest and been blind to others needs and pain. We have turned away from suffering for our own comfort.

We have ignored injustice for our own convenience. We have committed injustice. We have participated in systems that hurt our siblings. We have not heeded your request to care for your good creation. We have not seen you in the face of others. We have not loved our neighbors. We have not loved ourselves. We have not loved our bodies. We have been trapped in shame. We have shamed others.

We have not lived as you call us to live. Therefore, we humbly ask for your forgiveness in the name of our Lord Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

* **THE GLORIA PATRI and PASSING THE PEACE** 

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen, amen.

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** #11 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**SCRIPTURE AND SERMON**

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptized and Blessed

* **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: 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.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY* **THE DOXOLOGY** 

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** #465 Baptized in Water* **BENEDICTION**

After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments and fellowship, followed by Sunday School for both children and adults.