

Maplewood welcomes Chris Hoke, founding director of Underground Ministries (UM). *Underground Ministries serves those at the bottom of the American system: prisoners, gang members, those most feared, locked away in solitary confinement, and deemed dead to society. UM builds relationships, incarnating the kind of love seen in Jesus, friend of sinners and outcasts, who wept over Lazarus in the tomb before he raised him from the dead.*

As part of its "One Parish, One Prisoner" program, UM helps churches meet the urgent need for post-incarceration reentry solutions by organizing and equipping them to build direct relationship and support with just one person returning to their community from prison.

MPC participates in the OPOP program, and all of the worship readers today are members of the MPC OPOP team.

[Note: Chris's article "Kinship in Lockdown America-Learning with the Incarcerated through Relationships" is posted on the MPC website under the "Reflections" tab. An article from the MPC OPOP Team entitled "OPOP Update: The Journey Continues" is also posted in the same place.]

CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 34:1-5

I will bless the Lord at all times;
God's praise shall continually be in my
mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to God and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

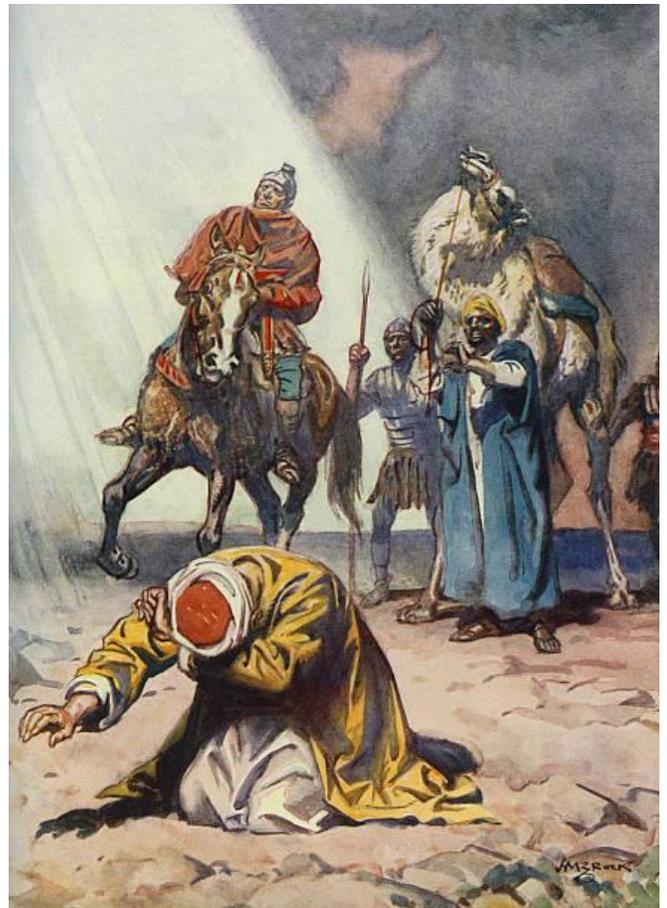
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light: **[Refrain]**

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight: **[Refrain]**

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: **[Refrain]**

For yourself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: **[Refrain]**



LENTEN PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

Eternal God, you neither slumber nor sleep in your watchful care for all creation. The knowledge of your protection gives us confidence and hope. We trust that, with your protection, nothing can harm us inwardly. You hold us in strong arms. We do not ask to be delivered from every hardship, but we ask to be awakened from our sleep, from our sheltered faith. Give us the gift of watchfulness, that we might recognize Christ amidst each circumstance and see clearly what you would have us do. We pray through Christ who walks beside us, and bids us watch and pray.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

SONG *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along my pilgrim journey
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me
In my trials, Lord, walk with me
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my troubles, Lord walk with me
In my troubles, Lord walk with me
When life becomes a burden,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-3, and
Galatians 1:11-18



MESSAGE **God's People in Wilderness:
Incarceration and Transformation**
- Chris Hoke, Underground Ministries

PRAYER

HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West*

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hearts, disciples in the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north,
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." - John 20:21

