

## Your True Self

Take time to set yourself up for success. Maybe it is going to a quieter place in the café. Maybe it is making sure your notifications are turned off (Do Not Disturb mode) Take 2 minutes this morning to center yourself with opening liturgy and then dive into today's lesson.

### Opening Liturgy

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**As the day rises to meet the sun**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### What's Happening This Week

Sunday Night: SM Dinner/Worship 5:30 -7

Discipleship Groups 7-8pm

Wednesday Night: Bible Study Groups 6-7:30

Want to be in the know? Text BUMCSM to 84576 for text alerts

### Scripture Reading:

**O Word made flesh, speak through us : words that bring new life.**

Matthew 7:1-12

"Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. 2 You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. 3 Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? 5 You deceive yourself! First take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye. 6 Don't give holy things to dogs, and don't throw your pearls in front of pigs. They will stomp on the pearls, then turn around and attack you.

7 "Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. 9 Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? 10 Or give them a snake when they ask for fish? 11 If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. 12 Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets.

### Here's the Deal:

The word hypocrite means to “act out the part of a character in a play.” In ancient times actors covered their faces with masks, representing the characters they were playing. Today, a hypocrite is known as one who covers or hides his real self and “acts out” as a different person. This person would be referred to as a fake. Anyone can fool an ‘audience,’ but God isn’t fooled. God wrote the ultimate script, created the characters, designed the set, and knows everything about the play. God created you just as God wants you to be. If you are wearing a mask, consider asking God for strength to take it off. You will enjoy life a lot better when you show the real you. Other texts you might read: John 16:24; Romans 14:1-13; 1 Corinthians 5; James 4:1-3; John 3:21-22.

Take 3 minutes (set a timer on your phone) and think about what characteristics you see as truly ‘yours’ – caring, innovative, perceptive, sociable, bold, planner, etc. What characteristics seem to be masking those true characteristics?

### Prayer for Others:

#### *Our Father*

Lord, grant that in my earthly pilgrimage I may ever be supported by the love and prayer of your beloved community, and may know myself to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. Give us the audacity to live as though we believe our hands and feet are instruments of prayer, your power, and your mercy. Amen.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.**

\*Adapted from *One Minute Bible, Common Prayer*, and the CEB translation of the Bible