

Proverbs 4

The beginning of wisdom is:
acquire wisdom

And with all your acquiring
get understanding.

Prize her, and she will exalt you;
She will honor you if you embrace her
She will place on your head
a garland of grace;
She will present you with
a crown of beauty v 7-9



But the path of the righteous
is like the light of dawn,
That shines brighter and brighter
until the full day
The way of the wicked is like
darkness;
They do not know over what
they stumble v 18-19



Doodle Through The Bible

ENTRANCE

GATHERING¹

Welcome to a time of reunion, respite, and renewal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Christ, who blesses even our struggles, is with us!
Praise the Lord!

PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

3056. Jesus, the Light of the World

OPENING PRAYER²

Compassionate God,
we recognize that our world is a broken place,
hurt by poverty, famine, and disease.

We admit that sometimes
we make the world a broken place,
tolerating prejudice, conflict, and self-interest.

We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger,
resentment, and jealousy.

Renew us in Your love, O God,
and heal us with the comfort of Your abundant love.

Awaken us to the role we can play
in healing Your creation.

Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit
to hear Your word and move forward in faith. Amen.

¹ Cover image © by Tara D, Scripture (NASB) © The Lockman Foundation.
<http://www.doodlethroughthebible.com/2015/06/proverbs-4.html>

² Written by Gill Le Fevre. Posted on the re:Worship blog at
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/02/opening-prayer-luke-6-17-26.html>.

HYMN 2032. My Life Is in You, Lord
CALL TO WORSHIP³

Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

May we learn to depend on God’s abundant provision instead of the world’s grasping for wealth as we worship today.

Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

May we learn to follow Christ’s call to provide for the hungry as co-creators of God’s kingdom as we worship today.

Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God’s comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.

Jesus declared, “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.”

May our worship teach us to rejoice in that day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!

HYMN 364. Because He Lives
PROVERB Proverbs 4:18-23 (NIV)

18 The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;

³ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

they do not know what makes them stumble.

20 My son, pay attention to what I say;
turn your ear to my words.

21 Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;

22 for they are life to those who find them
and health to one's whole body.

23 Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

RESPONSE

70. GLORIA PATRI

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**Incline Thine ear to us,
and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NRSV)

“Blessed are those who trust in the LORD”

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is
the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

MESSAGE

HYMN

2036. Give Thanks

PEACE & OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #95

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION
HOLY COMMUNION
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks
for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

BLESSING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14).

CANDLES

Go Now In Peace

*Go into the world, the body of Christ redeemed by His
blood, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, to praise the
Father and love His people.*

Proverbs 4

The beginning of wisdom is:
acquire wisdom

And with all your acquiring
get understanding.

Prize her, and she will exalt you;
She will honor you if you embrace her
She will place on your head
a garland of grace;
She will present you with
a crown of beauty v7-9



But the path of the righteous
is like the light of dawn,
That shines brighter and brighter
until the full day.
The way of the wicked is like
darkness;
They do not know over what
they stumble v18-19



In Search of Wisdom

In 2025, we will focus on the Book of Proverbs. Inspired by Joyce Meyer's *In Search of Wisdom*, for 31 Sundays we will consider each book of Proverbs, in turn. Books are available in the narthex or you may purchase them on Amazon.

Jan 19	Prov. 1	Apr 27	Prov. 12	Aug 03	Prov. 21
Jan 26	Prov. 2	May 04	Prov. 13	Aug 10	Prov. 22
Feb 02	Prov. 3	May 11	Prov. 31	Aug 31	Prov. 23
Feb 16	Prov. 4	May 18	Prov. 14	Sep 07	Prov. 24
Feb 23	Prov. 5	Jun 08	Prov. 15	Sep 14	Prov. 25
Mar 02	Prov. 6	Jun 15	Prov. 16	Sep 14	Prov. 26
Mar 09	Prov. 7	Jun 22	Prov. 17	Oct 05	Prov. 27
Mar 23	Prov. 8	Jun 29	Prov. 18	Oct 12	Prov. 28
Mar 25	Prov. 9	Jul 20	Prov. 19	Oct 19	Prov. 29
Mar 30	Prov. 10	Jul 27	Prov. 20	Oct 26	Prov. 30
Apr 06	Prov. 11				

Bellflower UMC spreads God's love within our church family and throughout our communities and world using our prayers, our gifts and our service; thus to become a shelter of love and a community of compassion..

To learn more, visit facebook.com/Bellflower.UMC

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (309-722-1500, rob@methodist.cc)