

# WORSHIPFUL & CONVERSATION & FELLOWSHIP

## Welcome

### Joel 1:1-20

*Common English Bible*

The LORD's word that came to Joel, Pethuel's son:

<sup>2</sup> Hear this, elders;  
pay attention, everyone in the land!  
Has anything like this ever happened in your days,  
or in the days of your ancestors?  
<sup>3</sup> Tell it to your children,  
and have your children tell their children,  
and their children tell their children.  
<sup>4</sup> What the cutting locust left,  
the swarming locust has eaten.  
What the swarming locust left,  
the hopping locust has eaten.  
And what the hopping locust left,  
the devouring locust has eaten.  
<sup>5</sup> Wake up, you who drink too much, and weep.  
Scream over the sweet wine,  
all you wine drinkers,  
because it is snatched from your mouth;  
<sup>6</sup> because a nation, powerful and beyond number,  
has invaded my land.  
Its teeth are like lions' teeth;  
its fangs are like those of a lioness.  
<sup>7</sup> It has destroyed my vines,  
splintered my fig trees,  
stripped off their bark and thrown it down;  
their branches have turned white.  
<sup>8</sup> Lament like a woman dressed in funeral clothing,  
one who has lost the husband of her youth.  
<sup>9</sup> The grain offering and the drink offering are gone  
from the LORD's temple.  
The priests and the LORD's ministers mourn.  
<sup>10</sup> The fields are devastated,  
the ground mourns;  
for the grain is destroyed,  
the new wine dries up,  
the olive oil fails.  
<sup>11</sup> Be shocked, you farmers;  
howl, you vinedressers,  
over the wheat and the barley,  
for the crops of the field are destroyed.  
<sup>12</sup> The grapevine is dried up;  
the fig tree withers.  
Pomegranate, palm, and apple—

all the trees of the field are dried up.  
Joy fades away from the people.  
<sup>13</sup> Dress for a funeral and grieve, you priests;  
lament, ministers of the altar.  
Come, spend the night in funeral clothing, servants  
of my God,  
because the grain offering and the drink offering  
have gone from the temple of your God.

<sup>14</sup> Demand a fast,

request a special assembly.  
Gather the elders  
and all the land's people  
to the temple of the LORD your God,  
and cry out to the LORD.  
<sup>15</sup> What a terrible day!  
The day of the LORD is near;  
it comes like chaos from the Almighty.  
<sup>16</sup> Isn't the food cut off  
right before our eyes?  
Aren't joy and gladness also gone from our God's  
house?  
<sup>17</sup> The grain shrivels under the shovels;  
the barns are empty.  
The granaries are in ruin  
because the grain has dried up.  
<sup>18</sup> How the animals groan!  
Herds of cattle are in distress  
because there is no pasture for them;  
even the flocks of sheep pant.  
<sup>19</sup> To you, LORD, I cry,  
for fire has completely destroyed  
the pastures of the wilderness;  
and flames have burned  
all the trees of the field.  
<sup>20</sup> Even the field's wild animals cry to you  
because the streams have dried up;  
the fire has completely destroyed  
the meadows of the wilderness.

## Finding a New Normal: The Crisis Now

Pastor Jacob

## "We'll Understand It Better By and By"

No. 525, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

## The Love Feast

*including the Lord's Prayer (No. 895, The United Methodist Hymnal)*

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.

## Sharing at the Table

*As we share in this feast, you are invited to share your thoughts in response to the following questions:*

***What is sustaining your mental and spiritual health through this pandemic? What "keeps you going"?***

***Are there parts of your "pandemic life" that are becoming normal? How does the "new normal" make you feel?***

*You can share with the whole group gathered here today via your phone or device (make sure to unmute yourself). You can also write your response in the chat.*

## Sending Forth

This service has been adapted from materials written by  
Jason Moore of Midnight Oil Productions