Our Worship Celebration
April 25, 2021

Prelude
~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship - Psalm 22:22-31**
~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

***Weekly Congregational Response**
~Our humble response to God's call to worship

***Prayer of Invocation**
~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

Song of Preparation and Praise - *Arise O God and Shine
~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Romans 1:16-17**
~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

***Prayer in Response to Our Assurance of Pardon**

Song of Comfort - *Amazing Grace
~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer - The Stocks, MTW India and Joel Smit, Smyrna Presbyterian Church
~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - Paul's Gratitude for God's Work in and Prayer for Mutual Edification with the Roman Church
Romans 1:8-15

Song of Response - *She Must and Shall Go Free
~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

***Announcements**
~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

***Benediction - Romans 5:1-5**
~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

**Stand*

"Paul's Gratitude for God's Work in the Roman Church"
Romans 1:8-15

Key Truth: <u>As debtors to the Gospel, we cultivate our affections for others by giving thanks for God's work in them and praying for opportunities to be mutually encouraged with them.</u>

Introduction:
Q: ***What causes you to give thanks? What does this reveal about the orientation of your heart?***

Romans 1:8: Paul's Gratitude to God for His Glory Displayed in the Roman Church:
"Christian love manifests itself in this that it rejoices at every good thing that it sees in others, especially at their spiritual blessings, and thanks God for them."
Martin Luther, ***Commentary on Romans***

Q: ***What is God doing in the lives of fellow Christians for which you could give thanks? How could you make this a regular practice?***

Romans 1:9-15: Paul's Prayer for Mutual Encouragement with the Roman Church:
"Paul is not distant or aloof from the people he writes to. Rather, he longs to be with them. His desire that they be "established" parallels Luke's desire that his friend Theophilus might "know the certainty of those things, wherein thou has been instructed" (Luke 1:4). Paul knows that such maturity will bring sweet and wonderful fellowship between himself and the Romans. He expects to receive a blessing from them as well as giving one to them. This is surely true among Christians always. When the relationship is what it should be, the blessings run in both directions."
Francis A. Schaeffer, ***The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1-8***

Q: ***How have you experienced mutual encouragement among fellow Christians? What could you do to be more proactive about pursuing this in your spheres of influence?***

Application:
Romans 1:8-15 teaches us that as debtors to the Gospel, we cultivate our affections for others by:
-giving thanks for God's work in them
-praying for opportunities to be mutually encouraged with them

Benediction: ***Romans 5:1-5***