

Celebration of Worship

August 4, 2024

Prelude

The Prelude is a time to begin transitioning from fellowshiping with our neighbors to preparing our hearts to worship God.

Please adjust all electronic devices so as not to interrupt the service.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to all our visitors. Please fill out the guest registration to let us know of your visit.

Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Almighty Father, who has given your only Son to be to us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive His inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of His most holy life; that dying to sin, and living to righteousness, we may at last obtain eternal life: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Psalm 103

Pastor: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

All: *Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--*

Pastor: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

All: *who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,*

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.

All: *As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Praise the Lord, O my soul*

***Invocation and Adoration**

***Worship in Song**

53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(based on Psalm 103)

Public Confession of Sin

All: God of love, it is your will that we should love you with heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, but we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our affections continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference, from fullness to emptiness. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your holy Word, and make your commandments the joy of our hearts. Conform us to the image of your loving Son, Jesus, so that we may shine before the world to your glory. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ~Romans 5:1-2

Corporate Confession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand

* Indicates please stand if able.

of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Some versions of the Creed omit this phrase; it was inserted to affirm the reality of Christ's physical death;

**or universal; this phrase simply refers to the fact that the Church is made up of believers of all times in all nations.

PETITIONING GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Prayers of God's People

(The pastor will lead us in prayer, reading submitted praises and requests)

ADORING GOD'S GLORY

Public Reading of Scripture

John 19:38-42

(Lectio Continua – the practice of reading Scripture in sequence)

Scripture Context:

Jesus has just been crucified by His own people.

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

* Indicates please stand if able.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Giving of First Fruits

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ~Proverbs 3:9-10

***The Doxology (Tune: As the Hart)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

***Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

***Worship in Song**

Man Of Sorrows

Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid

Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns

Chorus:

***Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee***

Sent of heaven God's own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree

* Indicates please stand if able.

Chorus:

***Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee***

*/ Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed /*

***Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee***

See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised
He's risen from the grave

Chorus:

***Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee***

Brooke Ligertwood | Matt Crocker

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His Mercy Is More

Chorus

**Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more**

Verse 1

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Verse 2

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Verse 3

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

James 1:1

Preaching of the Word

Introducing James

*Hymn of Response and Preparation

Before the Throne of God Above/When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

3 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,

and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
I sacrifice them to his blood.

COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Invitation to the Table

Fairfield Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive the Holy Communion with us. **If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers in the bulletin below.**

Prayer of Consecration and Confession of Sin Distribution of the Elements

PLEASE NOTE: The cups in the outer ring contain wine; all other cups *inside* contain *grape juice*.

Please **hold the bread** and we will partake together signifying our unity in one Body; please **drink the cup upon receiving it** in acknowledgment of your personal union to Christ in His shed blood.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*** Closing Hymn**

***Before the Throne of God Above/When I Survey the
Wondrous Cross***

4 Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,

My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

5 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Benediction

Just as God has the first word in worship, he also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

Postlude

* Indicates please stand if able.

Memory Verse of the Week:

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more

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loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Overcome with Sin Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Communing) Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.