

Celebration of Worship

September 22, 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

There dwells upon this earth a mysterious Being, whose office is to renew the fallen and restore the wandering. We cannot see Him or hear Him, yet He dwells in some of us as Lord of our nature. His chosen residence is a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

~ Charles Spurgeon

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:1-5

Pastor: Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to Him with the harp of ten strings!

People: *Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*

Pastor: For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

People: *He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.*

*Invocation and Adoration

The invocation should acknowledge that our worship is in vain if it is not Spirit-inspired. Often, the invocation will also employ the language of adoration and praise, which is very fitting in light of the vertical, God-focused dimension of this prayer.

* Indicates please stand if able.

*Worship in Song

Psalm 40

(tune: *Before the Throne of God Above*)

1. I wait-ed long u-pon the LORD;
He heard my cry and turned to me.
He raised me from the slim-y pit
and from the mire He pulled me free.

He set my feet on sol-id rock,
a place to stand both firm and broad.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a joy-ful hymn of praise to God,
a joy-ful hymn of praise to God.

2. Man-y will look with god-ly fear
and on the LORD a-lone re-ly,
Bless-ed are they who trust the LORD,
Who shun the proud and gods that lie.

The won-ders You have done, O LORD,
How man-y and how great they are!
Your plans for us are far be-yond
our pow'r to num-ber or de-clare,
our pow'r to num-ber or de-clare.

3. In the as-sem-bly when it met
Your jus-tice I pro-claimed a-broad.
I did not seal my lips at all;
You know all this a-about me, LORD.

I did not hide with-in my heart
Your sav-ing grace and right-eous-ness,
In the as-sem-bly I pro-claimed
Your stead-fast love and faith-ful-ness,

Your stead-fast love and faith-ful-ness.

4. But let all those who seek your face,
be joy-ful in you all their days;
let those who love sal-va-tion say,
"Ex-al-ted be the LORD al-ways!"

Yet I am poor and in great need;
LORD, think on me, I hum-bly pray.
You are my Sa-visor and my help;
Come, O, my God! Do not de-lay;
Come, O my God! Do not de-lay.

Public Confession of Sin

ALL: Almighty and Merciful God, we confess before You our sinful nature. We are prone to evil and slothful in good. You alone know how often we have sinned, how often we have transgressed Your holy law. O Lord, have mercy on us. We confess our sins and pray for grace to turn away from them in repentance. Cleanse even our secret sins and forgive them because of Jesus Christ. O Father, send Your purifying grace into our hearts. That we may, from now on, walk in Your ways, according to Your Word. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ~ 1 John 1:9

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

* Indicates please stand if able.

ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand 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; we might say he descended into *the unseen world*

**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

Testimony of God's Work

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 21:20-25

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

Scripture context

After Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to express his love three times, Jesus gave a cryptic description of how Peter would die. Afterwards, Peter inquired about John, to which Jesus essentially said, "That's not for you to worry about." After that, John made some closing comments.

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" ²² Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" ²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brothers¹ that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to

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him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord!

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**

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. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanks and Dedication**

***Worship in Song**

You Are My All in All

Men:

You are my strength when I
am weak,
you are the treasure that I
seek,
you are my all in all.

Seeking you as a precious
jewel,
Lord to give up I'd be a fool,
you are my all in all.

Ladies:

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy
is your Name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy
is your Name.*

You are my strength when I
am weak,
you are the treasure that I
seek,

* Indicates please stand if able.

***Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy
is your Name.***

***Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy
is your Name.***

Taking my sin, my cross, my
shame,
rising again I bless your name,
you are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me
up;
When I am dry you fill my cup;
You are my all in all.

***Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy
is your Name.***

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Ancient of Days

Verse 1

Though the nations rage
Kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King
Reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains:
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

***None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days***

Verse 2

Though the dread of night
Overwhelms my soul
He is here with me
I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

***None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days***

(instrumental)

Verse 3

Though I may not see
What the future brings
I will watch and wait
For the Saviour King
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Chorus

***None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
/ For my God is the Ancient of Days /***

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text:

James 2:1-13

Preaching of the Word

The Sin of Favoritism

***Closing Hymn**

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Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

***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.

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Memory Verse of the Week:

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.