



# Celebration of Worship

October 6, 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

O most merciful Father, who by the glorious ministration of the Spirit has given us a clear revelation of Your will in the Gospel of Your Son; we beseech You to enlighten our minds, that we may rightly understand it and duly value it, and frame our lives according to it, to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

### from Psalm 100:1-5

**Pastor:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

**People:** *Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

**Pastor:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**People:** *For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

### \*Invocation and Adoration

### \*Worship in Song

103

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

### Public Confession of Sin

\* Indicates please stand if able.

Heavenly Father, loving King, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before your eyes and ours. We open ourselves to you and ask that you cover us in Christ. Let us hear your voice saying: His blood is your peace, His death is your freedom, His Spirit is your power. And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer of Confession**

### **Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel**

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ~ 1 John 1:8-9*

### **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 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;

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

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## **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

### Judges 1:8-21

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

*In this next section we see the tribe of Judah take the lead in driving out the Canaanites, but it soon becomes obvious that they will fail. It will require a greater Deliverer who will come from the tribe of Judah.*

And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.<sup>9</sup> And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland.<sup>10</sup> And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.<sup>11</sup> From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher.<sup>12</sup> And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife."<sup>13</sup> And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.<sup>14</sup> When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?"<sup>15</sup> She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.<sup>16</sup> And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people.<sup>17</sup> And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it to destruction. So the name of the city was called Hormah.<sup>18</sup> Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.<sup>19</sup> And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they

\* Indicates please stand if able.

had chariots of iron. <sup>20</sup> And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak. <sup>21</sup> But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

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;<sup>10</sup> 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**

#### ***Christ Our Hope In Life And Death***

##### Verse 1

What is our hope in life and death  
Christ alone Christ alone  
What is our only confidence  
That our souls to Him belong  
What holds our days within His hand  
What comes apart from His command  
And what will keep us to the end  
The love of Christ in which we stand

##### ***[Chorus]***

\* Indicates please stand if able.

***O sing hallelujah  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death***

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul  
God is good God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise  
Who stands above the stormy trial  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Verse 3

Unto the grave what shall we sing  
Christ He lives Christ He lives  
And what reward will heaven bring  
Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

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***The Lord Is My Salvation***

Verse 1

The grace of God has reached for me  
And pulled me from the raging sea  
And I am safe on this solid ground  
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 2

I will not fear when darkness falls  
His strength will help me scale these walls  
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun  
The Lord is my salvation

**Chorus**

**Who is like the Lord our God  
Strong to save faithful in love  
My debt is paid and the victory won  
The Lord is my salvation**

Verse 3

My hope is hidden in the Lord  
He flow'rs each promise of His Word  
When winter fades I know spring will come  
The Lord is my salvation

Verse 4

In times of waiting times of need  
When I know loss when I am weak  
I know His grace will renew these days  
The Lord is my salvation

**Chorus**

Verse 5

And when I reach the final day  
He will not leave me in the grave

But I will rise He will call me home  
The Lord is my salvation

**Chorus**

Bridge  
Glory be to God the Father  
Glory be to God the Son  
Glory be to God the Spirit  
The Lord is our salvation

**Chorus**

Ending  
The Lord is our salvation  
The Lord is our salvation

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**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon Text:**

**James 2:14-26**

**Preaching of the Word**

***Justification By Works?***

**\*Hymn of Response and Preparation**

**427**

***Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands  
(vss. 1-2)***

(Tune: Traditional American Folk Tune)



# COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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## 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

*Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands*  
(vss. 3-4)

(Tune: Traditional American Folk Tune)

### \*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:

**Psalm 62:8** Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

***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 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.