

Celebration of Worship

February 2, 2025

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 and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Psalm 84:1-4

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

ALL: *My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

Pastor: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-- a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

All: *Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

*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.

***Worship in Song**

59

Forever Settled in the Heavens

(from Psalm 119:89-97)

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

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ~ Is. 1.18

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.

* Indicates please stand if able.

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 6:11-18

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

Scripture Context:

After the Israelites had endured oppression for a while by the Midianites, God raises up another deliverer named Gideon

Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me."¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

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**

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Chorus:

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

(Chorus)

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

* Indicates please stand if able.

(Chorus)

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name
Yes, I'll worship Your holy name

Before the Throne of God Above

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.

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.

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.

CCLI License # 358658

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text: James 5:19-20

Preaching of the Word

Reclaiming the Wanderer

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Hymn of Response and Preparation**

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

(vss. 1-2)

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away

* Indicates please stand if able.

[7]

As wounds which mar the chosen One, Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished

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.**

*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.

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

*How Deep the Father's Love For Us
(vss. 3)*

I will not boast in anything No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom

*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.

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.

* Indicates please stand if able.

Memory Verse of the Week:

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?