

Celebration of Worship

February 16, 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, who is always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than either we desire, or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy; forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 12:1-6

Pastor: We will praise you, O Lord. Though you were angry with us, your anger has been turned away, and you have comforted us.

All: *The Lord, the Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation. We will trust and not be afraid. With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

All: *Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing*

for joy, people of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

***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**

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Hallelujah Praise Jehovah

(from Psalm 148:1-13)

Public Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All: Our God of glory and grace, we have not loved one another as we ought. Selfish ambition has gripped us, and we have failed to look out for others' interests above our own. Conceit has gripped us, and we have failed to associate with and care for those who are different from ourselves. We have not treated one another as those in whom Christ dwells.

Forgive us for our offenses against you and go on to subdue everything in us that is contrary to your purposes. By the power of your Spirit make us a community that shows forth your acceptance, kindness and love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ~Isaiah 53.5

Corporate Confession of Faith –

(The Ligonier Statement on Christology)

We confess the mystery and wonder of God made flesh and
rejoice in our great salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Son created all things,
sustains all things, and makes all things new. Truly God, He
became truly man, two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived among us. Crucified,
dead, and buried, He rose on the third day, ascended to
heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment.

For us, He kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church,
interceding for us, and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

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 6:28-35

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

Scripture context:

The people react to Gideon's destruction of the altar of Baal

When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the
altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut
down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been

built.²⁹ And they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And after they had searched and inquired, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."³⁰ Then the men of the town said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it."³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down."³² Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, "Let Baal contend against him," because he broke down his altar.³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

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**

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

* Indicates please stand if able.

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus:

***My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace***

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Chorus:

***My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace***

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Only A Holy God

Verse 1

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

Verse 2

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendour outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Chorus

**Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God**

Verse 3

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Chorus

**Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God**

Verse 4

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God

Chorus (2x)

**Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God, Come and worship the Holy God**

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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text: **John 1:1-5**

Preaching of the Word

Jesus: Our Life and Our Light

***Closing Hymn**

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The Light of the World is Jesus

***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:

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

* Indicates please stand if able.