

# Celebration of Worship

June 22, 2025

#### **Prelude**

The Prelude is a time to begin transitioning from fellowshipping 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 quest registration to let us know of your visit.

# Silent Prayer of Preparation for Worship

We beseech You, Almighty God, look upon the heart desires of Your humble servants, and as You have enlightened us with the knowledge of Your truth, so enable us to walk as children of the light, and to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; that bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit, in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, we may be ever under Your Divine protection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

# Call to Worship from Psalm 136:1-5, 26

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his

steadfast love endures forever.

All: Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love

endures forever.

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love

endures forever;

All: to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast

love endures forever;

Pastor: to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his

steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>\*</sup>Please Stand if able

# All: Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### \*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

#### Psalm 40

(Tune: Before the Throne of God)

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.

 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

<sup>\*</sup>Please Stand if able

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-vior and my help; Come, O, my God! Do not de-lay; Come, O my God! Do not de-lay.

(You may be seated)

## **Public Confession of Sin**

Eternal & Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before your Holy Majesty that we are poor sinners.

We were conceived and born into guilt and corruption, and we are prone to do evil. We transgress, without end, your holy commandments. We have drawn upon ourselves your just sentence of condemnation. But Lord, with deep and heartfelt sorrow, we repent of our offenses. O Lord, have mercy upon us, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Remove our guilt and pollution and grant us the daily increase of your blessed Holy Spirit

<sup>\*</sup>Please Stand if able

that we may mortify sin and produce the fruits of holiness. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

# Silent Prayer of Confession Comfort and Assurance of the Gospel

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ~Isaiah 55:7

# \*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.

## 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**

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

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

<sup>\*</sup>Please Stand if able

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

Scripture Context:

Jephthah defeated the Ammonites, but in the process made a very rash and tragic vow

Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. 30 And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, 31 then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it<sup>2</sup> up for a burnt offering." 32 So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand. 33 And he struck them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a great blow. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel. 34 Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow." 36 And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites." 37 So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions." 38 So he said, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains. 39 And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never

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known a man, and it became a custom in Israel <sup>40</sup> that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

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

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

Rock of Ages (499)

#### Verse 1

Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

#### Verse 2

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone

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#### Verse 3

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Without clothes I come for dress
Without hope I come for rest
For that fountain now I cry
Wash me Savior or I die

#### Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath
When my eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

Augustus Montague Toplady, Nathan Drake, Thomas Hastings
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## On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

- On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye
   To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie.
- All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day;
   There God the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.

#### Chorus:

Men: I am bound

Women: (I am bound)

Men: I am bound

Women: (I am bound)

I am bound for promised land,

Men: I am bound

Women: (I am bound)

Men: I am bound

Women: (I am bound)

I am bound for promised land.

 No chilling winds nor poisonous breath Can reach that healthful shore; Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more.

## (chorus)

4. When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blessed? When shall I see my Father's face, And in His bosom rest?

(chorus)

# PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading & Prayer of Illumination
Sermon Text:

John 5:1-9

**Preaching of the Word** 

Healing at the Pool

\* Closing Hymn

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Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night

<sup>\*</sup>Please Stand if able

### \*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**

#### **Memory Verse**

**Isaiah 41:10** fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

# **Announcements**

- Photographs for the church directory are currently in the process. We are finishing up with taking photos. If you have not had your photo taken yet, please see Abigail Weaver.
- General Assembly will take place this week, June 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please be in prayer for all those attending.
- Men's Fellowship has ended for the summer and will resume Aug. 16<sup>th.</sup> See Pastor Ralph for questions.
- Women's Bible Study has ended for the summer. Studies will resume Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>. See Linda Bauer or Robin LaGuardia for more information.
- ❖ <u>Sermon in Review and Catechism Class</u> are resuming this Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM