

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 6, 2020

And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

Romans 15:12

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 52 (p. 804)

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A MASKIL OF DAVID, WHEN DOEG, THE EDOMITE, CAME AND TOLD SAUL, “DAVID HAS COME TO THE HOUSE OF AHIMELECH.”

Why do you boast of evil, you mighty man? Why do you boast all day long, you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?

Your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit.

You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth.

You love every harmful word, O you deceitful tongue!

Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin:

he will snatch you up and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living.

The righteous will see and fear; they will laugh at him, saying,

“Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!”

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God;

I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever.

I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good.

I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

Hymn of Preparation*

(tune printed on pg. 12)

All Praise to You, Eternal Lord

All praise to you, eternal Lord, clothed in our human flesh and blood,
A manger choosing for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours alone.

The skies did once before you bow; a virgin's arms contain you now:
The angels who in you rejoiced now listen for your infant voice.

A little child, you are our guest, that weary ones in you may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is your birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

You came to us in darkest night to make us children of the light,
To make us, in the realms divine, as your own angels round you shine.

All this for us your love has done; by this to you our love is won:
For this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host, to declare that you are holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of your glory!

All: As we think about your holiness, we recognize our unworthiness all the more. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Help us to lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and strengthen us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand.

All: All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response

Hymn 94 (stanzas 1-3, 6)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.” Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 101. *For what do we pray in the first petition?*

A. In the first petition, which is, “Hallowed be thy Name,” we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all the means by which he makes himself known, and that he would arrange all things to his own glory.

Q. 102. *For what do we pray in the second petition?*

A. In the second petition, which is, “Thy kingdom come,” we pray that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed, and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Q. 103. *For what do we pray in the third petition?*

A. In the third petition, which is, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 735

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Matthew 1

Congregational Response

Hymn 128

God Moves In a Mysterious Way

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Sin and Separation: A Savior Foretold”
Matthew 1

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heav’n’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won. Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“Sin and Separation: A Savior Foretold” Matthew 1

- 1. Jesus Was Born from the Right Family (Matthew 1:1)
 - Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6
 - Galatians 3:8
 - 2 Samuel 7:12-16
 - Isaiah 11:1-2

- 2. Jesus Was Born to Save Us from Our Sins (Matthew 1:21)
 - Galatians 4:4-5

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. While the list of names might seem tedious to read through at first, once we understand the Holy Spirit's purpose in inspiring Matthew to record this genealogy, we immediately gain a deep appreciation and reverence for the truths revealed in these verses. J.C. Ryle, in his book, *Expository Thoughts on Matthew*, explains:

The Gospel of St. Matthew begins with a long list of names. Sixteen verses are taken up with tracing a pedigree from Abraham to David and from David to the family in which Jesus was born. Let no one think that these verses are useless. Nothing is useless in creation. The least mosses, and the smallest insects, serve some good end. Nothing is useless in the Bible. Every word of it is inspired. The chapters and verses which seem at first sight unprofitable are all given for some good purpose... We should always read this catalogue with thankful feelings. We see here that no one who partakes of human nature can be beyond the reach of Christ's sympathy and compassion. Our sins may have been as black and great as those of any whom St. Matthew names. But they can not shut us out of heaven if we repent and believe the gospel. If Jesus was not ashamed to be born of a woman, whose pedigree contained such names as those recorded in Matthew 1, we need not think that he will be ashamed to call us brethren, and to give us eternal life.

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15. What did God promise Abraham in this covenant? How was that promise fulfilled in Christ?
2. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17. What did God promise David in this covenant? How was this promise fulfilled in Christ?
3. How did God reveal his grace in both of these covenants? How is David's response in 2 Samuel 7:18-29 instructive for how we should respond to God's grace toward us in Christ?
4. Review Matthew 1:1-17 and consider the names listed in Jesus' family line. Which ones do you associate with virtue? Which ones do you associate with vice? (Or perhaps a mixture of both!) How does this genealogy reveal the grace of God in sending Jesus to die for our sins?

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

Monday, December 7

Scripture: Hosea 6:1 - 9:17; 3 John 1:1-15; Psalm 126:1-6; Proverbs 29:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 32

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, December 8

Scripture: Hosea 10:1 - 14:9; Jude 1:1-25; Psalm 127:1-5; Proverbs 29:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 63

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, December 9

Scripture: Joel 1:1 - 3:21; Revelation 1:1-20; Psalm 128:1-6; Proverbs 29:18 Catechism:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 64

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Angola and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 10

Scripture: Amos 1:1 - 3:15; Revelation 2:1-17; Psalm 129:1-8; Proverbs 29:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 65

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, December 11

Scripture: Amos 4:1 - 6:14; Revelation 2:18 - 3:6; Psalm 130:1-8; Proverbs 29:21-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, December 12

Scripture: Amos 7:1 - 9:15; Revelation 3:7-22; Psalm 131:1-3; Proverbs 29:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 67

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, December 13

Scripture: Obadiah 1:1-21; Revelation 4:1-11; Psalm 132:1-18; Proverbs 29:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 68

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

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All Praise to You, Eternal Lord

1. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in our
 2. The skies did once be - fore you bow; a vir - gin's
 3. A lit - tle child, you are our guest, that wea - ry
 4. You came to us in dark - est night to make us
 5. All this for us your love has done; by this to

hu - man flesh and blood, a man - ger choos - ing
 arms con - tain you now: the an - gels who in
 • ones in you may rest; for - lorn and low - ly
 chil - dren of the light, to make us, in the
 you our love is won: for this we tune our

for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours a - lone.
 you re - joiced now lis - ten for your in - fant voice.
 • is your birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.
 realms di - vine, as your own an - gels round you shine.
 cheer - ful lays, and shout our thanks in cease - less praise.

Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr. in *The Sabbath Hymn Book*, 1858
 Alt., mod.

CANONBURY L.M.
 Robert Schumann, 1839
 Harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 2009
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