

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 16, 2021

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 90 (p. 816)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.”

**For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—
though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

All our days pass away under your wrath;

we finish our years with a moan.

The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength;

yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy
and be glad all our days.**

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—

yes, establish the work of our hands.

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glory let us sing; new songs thro'out the world shall ring: *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand; *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
And with his followers they see Jesus' resplendent majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To whom the angels, drawing nigh: "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
"This is the Savior," thus they say, "this is his noble triumph day."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Again shall ye behold him so as ye today have seen him go, *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
In glorious pomp ascending high, up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we marvel today that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We were your enemies, living in stubborn opposition to your Word, yet you loved us, pursued us, and brought us into your family.

All: We confess that despite the grace we have received in Jesus Christ, we have sinned against you and others with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to honor you and give you the thanks and praise you alone deserve.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and grant that as we hear your assurance of pardon, we would accept, receive, and rest on Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 119:1-16

Congregational Response

Hymn 295

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace; whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 42. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

Q. 44. *What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 732

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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*

2 Timothy 3:10 - 4:5

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 117])

Hymn 7 (printed on p. 12)

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;
To every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends your word.
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

What Difference Does the Holy Spirit Make?
He Inspired the Bible's Authors, and
He Causes Us to Understand and Believe the Bible
John 14:25-26

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 290

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Hail the day that sees him rise *Alleluia!*
To his throne above the skies; *Alleluia!*
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, *Alleluia!*
Enters now the highest heav'n. *Alleluia!*

There for him high triumph waits; *Alleluia!*
Lift your heads, eternal gates, *Alleluia!*
He hath conquered death and sin, *Alleluia!*
Take the King of glory in! *Alleluia!*

See, he lifts his hands above! *Alleluia!*
See, he shows the prints of love! *Alleluia!*
Hark! his gracious lips bestow *Alleluia!*
Blessings on his church below. *Alleluia!*

Lord, beyond our mortal sight, *Alleluia!*
Raise our hearts to reach thy height; *Alleluia!*
There thy face unclouded see, *Alleluia!*
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! *Alleluia!* Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

What Difference Does the Holy Spirit Make?
He Inspired the Bible's Authors, and
He Causes Us to Understand and Believe the Bible
John 14:25-26

1. While Jesus was with his disciples on earth, he taught them the truth about God. (v. 25)
Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32
John 16:7, 12-14
2. After his ascension, Jesus and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to teach and remind the disciples about all that Jesus said. (v. 26)
John 2:22; 12:16

We see this in their preaching. (Acts 3:18)
We see this in their writing of Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. Today, the Holy Spirit causes us to understand and believe the Bible. (v. 26)
1 Corinthians 2:14
The Bible is sufficient, clear, authoritative, and necessary.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, May 17

Scripture: 1 Samuel 20:1 - 21:15; John 9:1-41; Psalm 113:1 - 114:8; Proverbs 15:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 22

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

Tuesday, May 18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 22:1 - 23:29; John 10:1-21; Psalm 115:1-18; Proverbs 15:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 94

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

Wednesday, May 19

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24:1 - 25:44; John 10:22-42; Psalm 116:1-19; Proverbs 15:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 95

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the British Virgin Islands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, May 20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 26:1 - 28:25; John 11:1-54; Psalm 117:1-2; Proverbs 15:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 96

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

Friday, May 21

Scripture: 1 Sam. 29:1 - 31:13; John 11:55 - 12:19; Psalm 118:1-18; Proverbs 15:24-26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 97

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs and our pregnant moms.

Saturday, May 22

Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11; John 12:20-50; Psalm 118:19-29; Proverbs 15:27-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 98

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

Sunday, May 23

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:12 - 3:39; John 13:1-30; Psalm 119:1-16; Proverbs 15:29-30

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 99

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.

Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The Bible is the Word of God. While numerous authors were involved in writing Scripture, each author was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who superintended every word and phrase. Louis Berkhof explains:

The Holy Spirit acted on the writers of the Bible in an organic way, in harmony with the laws of their own inner being, using them just as they were, with their character and temperament, their gifts and talents, their education and culture, their vocabulary and style. The Holy Spirit illumined their minds, aided their memory, prompted them to write, repressed the influence of sin on their writings, and guided them in the expression of their thoughts even to the choice of their words. In no small measure he left free scope to their own activity. They could give the results of their own investigations, write of their own experiences, and put the imprint of their own style and language on their books.

The Bible, therefore, is not just good advice or helpful suggestions about what to believe and how to live. It is, instead, God's authoritative Word to us about who he is and what he requires. In it he explains the only way of salvation through Jesus Christ and assures us that all those who believe in him will receive eternal life. Let us then take up and read it, meditate on it, and ask the Lord to increase our faith to believe all of it. Westminster Confession of Faith 1.4 explains: "The authority of the Holy Scripture, because of which it ought to be believed and obeyed, does not depend upon the testimony of any man or church, but entirely upon God, its author (who is truth itself); therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God."

1. Read John 14:25. What did Jesus teach his disciples while he was with them? Are there 2 or 3 parables or sayings of Jesus that stick out in your mind and that have particularly influenced your life?
2. Read Acts 2:14-41. What do you notice about Peter's preaching? Why is Peter bolder and more insightful about Christ's saving work than he was in the gospel accounts?
3. What do the following passages teach about the Bible? Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 12:38-42; Matthew 19:4-5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; and 1 Peter 1:10-12.
4. Read Westminster Larger Catechism Q/A 3-5 and Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 1. Why is it important for Christians to believe that Scripture is inspired and without error?
5. Do you prioritize reading Scripture and thinking about God in your daily life? If you don't, what are some changes you can make to your daily schedule to begin developing this habit?

From All That Dwell below the Skies

7

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. Ps. 117:1

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery
3. E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's name be
land the strains be - long. In cheer - ful sound all voic - es
truth at - tends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to

sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Based on Psalm 117
Isaac Watts, 1719; mod.

DUKE STREET L.M.
John Hatton, 1793