

Welcome...

...to all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Worship consists of a dialogue between God and His people. God speaks and we respond by grace. The pastor and a ruling elder lead us. ***Please stand, if able.**

Order of Morning Worship

January 3, 2021

Prelude *We prepare silently to meet God in worship.*

***Call to Worship** Psalm 98:1-3

***Song of Approach** "Knowing You"

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

Chorus:

Knowing You, Jesus knowing You,
There is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found by You, and known as Yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn;
All surpassing gift of righteousness.

Chorus

Oh to know the power of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings,
To become like You in Your death, my Lord;
So with You to live, and never die.

Chorus

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***Invocation and Profession of Faith and Obedience**

Having been led by the Spirit of God to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and having professed our faith, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with one another in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the enablement of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its faithfulness to God's word; to sustain its worship, sacraments, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children in the Lord's ways; to seek the salvation of our family, friends, and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and

exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all contentiousness and sinful anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation, mindful of our Savior's command to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with another congregation where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

So help us God, Amen.

***Hymn 92**

“A Might Fortress is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,

The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him Who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 13

Congregational Prayer

My heavenly Father,
Grant me the favor of being led by You,
Under the directions of Your providence and Word.

Grant me Your blessings along with bitter things,
To brighten and quicken me,
Not to depress and make me lifeless;
Grant me, like Gideon of old, tokens of Your favor,
By removing things that discourage me.

Grant me support beneath the shadow
Of Your sympathy when I am tempted.
Accept my unceasing thanks
That I am not cast off from Your hand.

Do not allow my life to extend beyond my usefulness;
Cast me not under the feet of pride, injustice, riches,
Worldly greatness, or the selfish oppression of men;
Help me to wait patiently, silently upon You,
Not to be enraged or speak unadvisedly.

Let Your mercy follow me while I live,
And give me aid to resign myself to Your will.
To Your grace and the care of Your covenant
I commit myself, in sickness, and in health,
For Jesus has overcome the world,
Fulfilled the law, finished justifying righteousness,
And swallowed up death in victory.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Hymn**

"Complete in Thee"

Author: Aaron R. Wolfe, published in 1850; public domain

Complete in Thee! No work of mine
May take, dear Lord, the place of Thine;
Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
And I am now complete in Thee.

Chorus:

Yea, justified! O blessed thought!
And sanctified! Salvation wrought!
Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
And glorified, I too, shall be!

Complete in Thee! No more shall sin,
Thy grace hath conquered, reign within;
Thy voice shall bid the tempter flee,
And I shall stand complete in Thee. *Chorus*

Complete in Thee--each want supplied,
And no good thing to me denied;
Since Thou my portion, Lord, wilt be,
I ask no more, complete in Thee. *Chorus*

Dear Savior! When before Thy bar
All tribes and tongues assembled are,
Among Thy chosen will I be,
At Thy right hand, complete in Thee. *Chorus*

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

Message

"HOW LONG...UNTIL I LEARN TO SING?"

***Hymn**

"When Trials Come"

When trials come no longer fear
For in the pain our God draws near
To fire a faith worth more than gold
And there His faithfulness is told
And there His faithfulness is told.

Within the night I know Your peace
The breath of God brings strength to me
And new each morning mercy flows
As treasures of the darkness grow
As treasures of the darkness grow.

I turn to Wisdom not my own
For every battle You have known
My confidence will rest in You
Your love endures Your ways are good
Your love endures Your ways are good.

When I am weary with the cost
I see the triumph of the cross
So in its shadow I shall run
Till He completes the work begun
Till He completes the work begun.

One day all things will be made new
I'll see the hope You called me to
And in Your kingdom paved with gold
I'll praise Your faithfulness of old
I'll praise Your faithfulness of old.

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***God Blesses His People** 2 Corinthians 13:14

***Hymn 734** “Gloria Patri”

“HOW LONG...UNTIL I LEARN TO SING?”

Psalm 13; Ephesians 1:15-23

Our text is the most concentrated expression of the “How long?” cry in all of Scripture. Not the same as Mark 9:19. *“Longer than you might expect – but not a moment longer than absolutely necessary.”*

I. THE PROTEST: HAVING TO WAIT TOO LONG

1 Samuel 27:1; Gen 16:4

A. David Wrongly Conflates His Experiences

Psalm 77

B. It is the Protest of Unmet Expectations

1 Kings 18-19; Rom 8:36; John 4:34

II. THE PETITION: CONSIDER, HEAR AND ENLIGHTEN ME

A. What is the Danger Faced?

B. David Prays for Enlightenment

Luther: “hope despairs and yet despair hopes.” Samuel Rutherford: “The secret formula of the saints: When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines.” 2 Kings 6:17; Ex 33:15-18; Matt 17:2; Eph 1:17-20; 2 Cor 4:6; Matt 27:34; Luke 23:34; Gen 32:26.

III. THE PRAISE: GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANT!

A. Praise God for His Covenant Mercy

Hesed; 2 Sam 7; Ps 89:20-24, 28, 35-37.

B. Sing of the Bounties of the LORD

Merrill Womach, November 23, 1961, *Tested By Fire*

Conclusion