

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 24, 2021

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

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise,
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.
To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal;
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief
For every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,
I fear to call Thee mine;
The springs of comfort seem to fail,
And all my hopes decline.
Yet, gracious God, where shall I flee?
Thou art my only trust;
And still my soul would cleave to Thee
Though prostrate in the dust.

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,
And shall I seek in vain?

And can the ear of sov'reign grace
Be deaf when I complain?
No, still the ear of sov'reign grace
Attends the mourner's prayer;
O may I ever find access
To breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still,
Here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.
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Here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 25:1-3, 21-22

***Song of Approach**

“His Mercy is More”

What love could remember,
No wrongs we have done
Omniscient all-knowing,
He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea,
Without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many,
His mercy is more.

Chorus:

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait, as we constantly roam
What Father so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Chorus

What riches of kindness, He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt, we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Chorus twice

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***Invocation and Profession of Faith**

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me whole-heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

***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.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 16

Congregational Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father, we rejoice in Your mercy; it is higher than the heavens, deeper than the sea, wider than our wanderings, greater than all our sin.

Forgive our careless attitude toward Your sovereign design for us, our complaining when in trial, our envy of the perceived well-being of others, our obsession with pleasing ourselves, our indifference to the needs of others, our neglect of Your commands.

Help us to repent of these transgressions and seek You with all our heart, so that we might walk in Your ways, until You call us home. Amen.

***Hymn** "My Worth is Not in What I Own"

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose, in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross.

Chorus:
I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest Treasure,
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him, no other.
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us
At the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross.

Chorus

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed - my ransom paid
At the cross.

Chorus

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New Testament Reading Acts 2:29-36

Message "GOD, OUR HIGHEST GOOD"

***Hymn 355** "We Are God's People"

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall His work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

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

***Hymn 734** "Gloria Patri"

"GOD, OUR HIGHEST GOOD"

Psalm 16:1-4

Is it possible to love God for His own sake? Job 13:15. Jonathan Edwards, *Treatise on Religious Affections*. 2 Pet 1:4. Verse 10. 2 Tim 1:10; Acts 2:29-36. David's thorough satisfaction is predicated upon this risen Christ.

I. GOD IS TO BE TRUSTED AS OUR SUPREME GOOD

A. God Himself is David's Greatest Good

God is David's highest good, his *summum bonum*. Ps 73:25-26; Ex 20:2

B. The Good is God's Beautiful, Satisfying, and Delightful

Gen 1:4, 1:31; 2:9; 3:4-5; Rom 12:1-2.

II. THE SAINTS, NOT IDOLS, ARE EARTH'S TRUE NOBLES

A. God-Delighters Take Pleasure in God's People

1 John 4:20

B. Idol-Worshippers Only Multiply their Misery

Ps 115: Gen 27; Josh 23:7; Ex 23:13; cf. Deut 7:25-26; 12:30. Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Conclusion
John 1:11-13