

## 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

February 14, 2021

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

#### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 126

#### \*Song of Approach

“May the Peace”

May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father,  
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,  
And the fellowship of God the Spirit  
Keep our hearts and minds within His love.

#### *Chorus:*

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign;  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ eternal, the King of Kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of His communion,  
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

#### *Chorus*

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## \*Invocation and Profession of Faith

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” *(Romans 8:1-4)*

#### \*Hymn 4

“All Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

All praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love,  
The God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul He fills,  
The God who every sorrow stills.  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made  
His gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning dawn or evening shade  
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of His might,  
Lo, all is just and all is right.  
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to Him in time of need:  
Lord God, O hear my calling!  
For death He gave me life indeed  
And kept my feet from falling.  
For this my thanks shall endless be;  
O thank Him, thank our God, with me.  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not His flock,  
His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock,  
Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand  
He leads His own, His chosen band.  
To God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ's holy name,  
To God give praise and glory!  
Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim,  
To God give praise and glory!  
All idols underfoot be trod,  
The Lord is God! The Lord is God!  
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before His presence now  
And banish fear and sadness;  
To your Redeemer pay your vow  
And sing with joy and gladness:  
Though great distress my soul befell,  
The Lord, my God, did all things well,  
To God all praise and glory!

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 17

## **Congregational Prayer**

Lord of immortality,

Before whom angels bow  
And archangels cover their faces,  
Enable us to serve You with a reverence and a godly fear,  
You who are Spirit and require truth in the inward parts.

May we not harbor any sin in our hearts this moment.  
May we not seek our satisfaction in things that perish.

We hasten toward when earthly pursuits  
And possessions will appear to be vain and worthless,  
And it won't matter whether we have been rich or poor,  
"Successful" or not, whether we have been admired or  
Despised by the world.

All that will matter is things of eternal importance, like  
"Have I mourned for my sin?"  
"Have I hungered and thirsted after righteousness?"  
"Have I loved the Lord Jesus in sincerity?"  
"Has my only glory been in the cross of Christ?"

May these objects engross our hearts now,  
While we still live on the earth.  
God, banish from our minds all sinful fear and shame,  
So that we may confess the Lord Jesus Christ,  
The Redeemer, before men.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*Hymn 94**

"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.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

E'en down to old age all my people shall prove  
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

"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."

**New Testament Reading**

John 17:6-19

**Message***"GOD HEARS A JUST CAUSE"***\*Hymn 253** "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains:  
Lose all their guilty stains,  
Lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in His day;  
And there have I, as vile as He,  
Washed all my sins away:  
Washed all my sins away,  
Washed all my sins away;  
And there have I, as vile as He,  
Washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Your flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die:  
And shall be till I die,  
And shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song  
I'll sing your pow'r to save,  
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue  
Lies silent in the grave:  
Lies silent in the grave,  
Lies silent in the grave;  
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue  
Lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r,  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved, to sin no more:  
Be saved, to sin no more,  
Be saved, to sin no more;  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.

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

**\*Hymn 734**    “Gloria Patri”

*“GOD HEARS A JUST CAUSE”*  
Psalm 17; John 17:6-19

Psalm 17 has a familiar ring to it. But how does this text apply to persecution today (ideological totalitarianism)? 17:13? John 17:15?

## **I. DAVID PROTESTS HIS RIGHTEOUS PERSON AND CAUSE**

**A. David Appeals to a Double Righteousness**  
Rom 8:1-4; 3:21-31; 1 John 3:2-3

1 John 3:2-3; Matt 7:1-2; 1 Peter 4:17. Humility says, “There but for the grace of God go I.”

## **B. We Must Ask Ourselves Some Convicting Questions**

The push toward ideological totalitarianism. Example: so-called “Equality Act” (HR 5). “Have I supported those who support this agenda? Have I failed to aid the forces resisting it? Am I in my own way practicing the same kinds of sins? Am I more concerned with my economic freedom than sharing Jesus Christ?” Ps 139:23-24

## **II. HE ASKS TO BE PRESERVED IN A WICKED WORLD**

### **A. David Prays for Spiritual Preservation**

Ps 119:71; John 17:11-12, 15, Rom 8:31-34.

### **B. He Implicitly Asks for the Growth of the Church**

John 17:20. Evangelize or fossilize! Heartfelt evangelism is a safeguard against barren orthodoxy. The church that is actively and frequently talking to people about Jesus Christ is not frantic with fear about what coming days will bring. Phil 2:16; Rev 2-3.

## **III. HE TRUSTS THAT THE MORNING LIGHT WILL SET THINGS RIGHT**

### **A. David’s Opposition is Earth-Bound**

### **B. He Seeks an Eternal Satisfaction**

Conclusion

*The day of resurrection!*