

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

May 2, 2021

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

***Call to Worship** Psalm 95:1-7

***Song of Approach** "Almighty"

Refrain:

Almighty, most holy God,
Faithful through the ages;
Almighty, most holy Lord,
Glorious, almighty God.

The beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
Are silent to call out Your name;
The earth has no voice and I have no choice
But to magnify God unashamed.
Let the rocks be kept silent for one more day,
Let the whole world sing out, let the people say...

Refrain

Well, time marches on with the innocence gone,
And a darkness has covered the earth;
But His Spirit dwells, He speaks, "It is well,"
And the hopeless still offered new birth.
He will break the leash of death, it will have no sting
Let the prisoner go free, join the dance and sing!

Refrain

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***Invocation and Profession of Faith**

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:8-13)

***Hymn**

"Come People of the Risen King"

Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Refrain

Come, young and old from every land -
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands -
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing -
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age:
"Our God is all in all"!

Refrain Twice

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Old Testament Reading

Psalm 24

Congregational Prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,

You have made from one blood all nations, and promised that many shall come to sit down with Abraham in Your kingdom. We pray for the more than 800 million people in Muslim lands who are still far off, that they might be brought near by the blood of Christ.

Look upon them in pity because they are without understanding of Your Truth.

Take away blindness of heart, and reveal to them the surpassing beauty and power of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Convince them of their sin and pride in rejecting the sacrifice of the only Savior.

Give courage to those who love You that they may boldly confess Your Name. Equip Your children and Your messengers in Muslim lands with the power of the Holy Spirit that they may demonstrate the loveliness and tenderness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Make bare Your arm, O God, and show Your power.

Father, glorify Your Son in the Muslim world, and fulfill through Him the prayer of Abraham, Your friend -- "O, that Ishmael might live before You."

For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 7:25

***Hymn 478**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest,
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

*Refrain***New Testament Reading**

Matthew 25:1-13

Message*"LIFT UP YOUR GATES"****Hymn**

"May the Peoples Praise You"

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ.

May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life.

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known.
May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word.

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.

This our holy privilege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue,
Your church proclaims.

May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name.

Let the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus.

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

“LIFT UP YOUR GATES”
Psalm 24

Joy and reverence. Ps 95:1, 6. Worship = “to stretch one’s self out full length upon the ground.” A. W. Tozer said, “No one can know the true grace of God who has not first known the fear of God.” “Our Lord’s Temple Church of God in Christ.” Titus 2:13. Ark. Ascension. Appearing.

I. THE MESSAGE: FROM OWNERSHIP TO ADMISSION TO EXPECTATION

A. The LORD is the Owner of His Filled Earth
Gen 1:9-10; cf. 1:4, 8; 2 Cor 6:17; Ps 145:9

B. Who May Be Admitted to Worship this God?
Ps 15; 1 Cor 11; Matt 1:19; 1 Tim 4:8; Rom 2:28-29

C. The Joyous Expectation of God’s Arrival

II. THIS PSALM FINDS THREE HOMES AMONG GOD’S PEOPLE

A. The Ark Has Come to His Place of Rest
2 Sam 6; 1 Chron 15; Num 10:35-36; John 1:14

B. Jesus Has Ascended to His Throne
Acts 1; Rev 3:20-21

C. Jesus Will Appear in Glory
Rev 19:11-14. Marshal Georgy Zhukov of the Soviet Union. June 24, 1945 Victory Parade in Moscow. Rev 12:11; Luke 18:8; 17:26-27.

Conclusion