

# **Morning Worship**

**Sunday, September 26, 2021**

“ God’s comfort is unusual. He doesn’t make life easy. He doesn’t take our struggle and hardship away. He even adds the pain of caring. But our Father’s comfort actively strengthens you in the midst of weakness, pain, and need - so you can take heart and take action. We have very good reasons for feeling vulnerable and overwhelmed. But God’s forms of comfort give better reasons to live with courage, humility, and purpose. “The Father of mercies and God of all comfort” heartens us when we feel disheartened. He encourages us so we become able to encourage others. To be truly comforted deepens your faith, anchors your hope, nourishes your love, and elicits your joy. To be comforted in the biblical sense brings forth the fruit of the Spirit in your life.”

David Powlison

# *Let Us Come Together to Worship God*

## **Call to Worship**

**Isaiah 49:8-10, 13**

<sup>8</sup>This is what the Lord says: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, <sup>9</sup>to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’ They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. <sup>10</sup>They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.” He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

<sup>13</sup>Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

## **Hail to the Lord’s Anointed**

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers, upon the fruitful earth;  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald, go;  
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

O’er ev’ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blessed;  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is love.

## **Prayer of Invocation**

*We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.*

## ***We Confess Our Sins***

### **Call to Confession**

**Psalm 130:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. <sup>2</sup> Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. <sup>3</sup> If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, who could stand?

### **Prayer of Confession**

**(adapted from Prone to Wander)**

Lord,

You are our faithful shepherd who walks beside us in green pastures and through the valley of deep shadow. You have promised to pursue us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Yet we confess that we often doubt your compassion and care for us. When we are harassed and helpless, instead of turning to you and trusting you to care for our needs and lead us in straight paths, we seek help in our idols and comfort in our sins. When others around us are harassed and helpless, we are impatient and lacking in compassion, uncaring about their needs and concerns. Father, forgive us.

Jesus, thank you for the compassion that brought you from heaven to live among us as the Good Shepherd. Thank you for entering life's trials and enduring death's valley in our place, without fear. Thank you that you always trusted your Father's care for you, even when he gave you the overflowing, bitter cup of suffering to drink for us. Thank you that you have prepared a bountiful feast for us in your Father's house and that we will dwell there in heaven with you forever.

Holy Spirit, be our comforter in the midst of the trials of life. Help us to trust you to provide when we are helpless to do so. Teach us to find refuge in you when we have nowhere else to turn and when no one else seems to understand our needs. Enable us in turn to show similar compassion and care to others as well, so that we may learn to love the other members of your flock as you do. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Silent Prayers of Confession**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Psalm 130:3-5, 7-8**

<sup>3</sup> If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. <sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption. <sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

## **Christ Our Hope In Life and Death**

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong.  
Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal!  
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess:  
Christ our hope in life and death*

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.  
Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?  
*Chorus*

Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord; then sin and death will be destroyed.  
And we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore  
*Chorus (2x)*

## **Congregational Prayer**

# ***God Reveals Himself to Us in the Reading of His Word***

## **Scripture Reading**

## **2 Corinthians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup> You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

## **Sermon**

***“Comfort Begets Comfort”***  
Reverend Robert P Pazehoski, Jr.

## ***We Celebrate the Lord's Supper***

### **The Lord's Supper**

*All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ's sacrifice.*

### ***Song of Preparation:***

#### **Be Still, My Soul**

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In every change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly, Friend;  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God does undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul, when dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
Then shall you better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### *Song of Response:*

#### **Wonderful, Merciful Savior**

Wonderful merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend,  
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men,  
Oh you rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore.*

*You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way,  
Oh we hopelessly lost the way.

*Chorus*

Almighty infinite Father, faithfully loving your own,  
Here in our weakness you find us, falling before your throne,  
Oh we're falling before your throne.

*Chorus*

#### **Benediction**

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