

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, January 2nd, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Eric Bancroft

He was poor, that he might make us rich.
He was born of a virgin that we might be born of God.
He took our flesh, that he might give us His Spirit.
He lay in the manger, that we may lie in paradise.
He came down from heaven, that he might bring us to heaven....

That the ancient of Days should be born.
that he who thunders in the heavens should cry in the cradle....
that he who rules the stars should suck the breast;
that a virgin should conceive;
that Christ should be made of a woman, and of that woman which himself made,
that the branch should bear the vine,
that the mother should be younger than the child she bare,
and the child in the womb bigger than the mother;
that the human nature should not be God, yet one with God

Behold the love that passeth knowledge!

- Thomas Watson

Praise God for the Promise in Christ Jesus!

Call to Worship

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, show the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Come Thou Fount

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Broken I shall be in spirit, till released from flesh and sin,
Yet from what I do inherit, here thy praises I’ll begin;
Clothed in flesh, till death shall loose me, I cannot proclaim it well,
How his kindness still pursues me human tongue can never tell.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by thy great help I’ve come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood;

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face;
Clothed then in blood wash'd linen how I'll sing thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, take my ransomed soul away;
Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day.

Prayer of Invocation

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

Recount the Wonders of His Mercy

Call to Confession

Psalm 19:7-10; Romans 7:22-24

The law of the LORD is perfect reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *Streams of Mercy*)

Holy Father,

You are our great and glorious Creator. You have graciously given your perfect and wise law as a lamp to guide our steps. Every part of your creation delights to do your holy will—except for us. Lord, our love of sin astounds us. Whether we have known you for many years or are babies in the faith, it is our nature to sin. Our affections are turned away from you, and none of our desires or motivations are pure. Though we have died to the eternal consequences of our sin, we daily choose to live as slaves to lust and selfishness, doing things we know that we should not and failing to do the things that we know that we should. We continually try to patch together our own rags of righteousness, to prove to you that we are worth loving, worth saving, worth keeping. Father, have mercy on us.

Jesus, though our sins are vast in number, your grace is greater still! Though our guilt rises to the heavens to condemn us, your righteousness soars above it to plead on our behalf. Each of our sins is paid for, past, present, and future, and your perfect record of holiness is credited to us, as if we had never sinned. Thank you.

Holy Spirit, melt our hearts with the reality of how we have been cherished in Christ. Help us not to use grace as an excuse to sin more. Instead, delight us with the love of our Savior until our hearts change and we desire him, and obedience to him, above everything else.

Thank you that we will not be like this forever. Although in this world we will make only small beginnings in truly loving your law, a day is coming when we will be new creations, inside and out, and will stand before you in sinless perfection. O God, until that day, may the sweet rest we have in the work of Christ give us fresh courage and strength to engage the daily battle with our sinful hearts, with gratitude and joy. In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

God Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51)

God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgment just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice,
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Sermon

“Arise, shine; for your light has come...”

Reverend Tony Cowley

My Soul, Arise

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on his hands.
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise,
Arise, my soul, arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise!

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, his precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race, his blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace. *Chorus*

Five bleeding wounds he bears; received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry, “Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!” *Chorus*

The Father hears him pray, his dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of his Son;
The Spirit answers to the blood, the Spirit answers to the blood
And tells me I am born of God. *Chorus*

My God is reconciled; his pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for his child; I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry. *Chorus*

Receive the Gifts of His Grace

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:

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, and for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, and for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, and for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, and for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who didst come to be our Savior, paid for our sins upon the cross
Severed from love, to bring us favor, in sight of justice, such a cost!
Thou who didst come to be our Savior, paid for our sins upon the cross.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Immanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

All Glory Be to Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive?
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn - all glory be to Christ!
All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing; All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, his kingdom come on earth as is above,
Who is himself our daily bread - praise him the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price.
We'll take a cup of kindness yet - All glory be to Christ! *Chorus*

When on the day the great I Am, the Faithful and the True,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light,
And we shall ere his people be - all glory be to Christ! *Chorus x2*

Benediction

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