

Lord's Day Worship

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Worship Presider: Elder Lewis Waha

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Hosea 6:1a, 3

“Come, let us return to the LORD;
Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
**he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.”**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever will be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Prayer of Invocation

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

We Confess Our Sins

Call to Confession

Psalms 131

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,

like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from *Prone to Wander*)

Loving heavenly Father,

You alone are the Creator and Sustainer of all things. It is our great privilege to live under your omnipotence, righteousness, wisdom, mercy, and grace. You love us with better love than any we could ever know here on earth, and we stand in awe of your power and commitment to cherish us. Yet even though we have tasted your goodness, we are people who would rather trust in ourselves. We place our hope in our own talents and abilities, in relationships with people we admire and love, in our jobs and good health, in our economic value, and even our spiritual disciplines, thinking we will merit more favor from you. Father, we are worshippers of ourselves, and we find our hearts downcast when we discover we cannot save ourselves in any way.

Jesus, if you had not lived a perfect life for us, we could never have hope or peace. You trusted your Father throughout your lifetime and into your undeserved death. Thank you for suffering the many agonies of life in a fallen world on our behalf, and for remaining faithful and obedient in temptation, grief, and loss. Your obedience and perfect righteousness are the strong foundation for all our hope and peace.

Holy Spirit, teach us to be still and know that you are God and we are not. Please give us true grief for the many ways that we sin against you, and fill us with repentance and hope in you. Show us the unstoppable love of our Savior, who was stricken for our sin, and who stands in heaven as our powerful Advocate. Then we will be at peace because you are perfect and strong, and you will never leave us, forsake us, or hurt us. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

1 Peter 1: 3-8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though

it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

Jesus, Strong and Kind

Jesus said that if I thirst I should come to him;
No one else can satisfy I should come to him.
Jesus said if I am weak I should come to him;
No one else can be my strength I should come to him.
*For the Lord is good and faithful; he will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus; Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear I should come to him;
No one else can be my shield I should come to him. *Chorus*

Jesus said if I am lost he will come to me,
And he showed me on that cross he will come to me. *Chorus*

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand

and marked off the heavens with a span,

enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure

and weighed the mountains in scales

and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,

or what man shows him his counsel?

¹⁴ Whom did he consult,

and who made him understand?

Who taught him the path of justice,

and taught him knowledge,

and showed him the way of understanding?

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,

and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
 behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
 nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him,
 they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God,
 or what likeness compare with him?
¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it,
 and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
 and casts for it silver chains.
²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering
 chooses wood that will not rot;
 he seeks out a skillful craftsman
 to set up an idol that will not move.

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
²³ who brings princes to nothing,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when he blows on them, and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
 that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
 who created these?
 He who brings out their host by number,
 calling them all by name;
 by the greatness of his might
 and because he is strong in power,
 not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Sermon

“Knowing Our God”

Reverend Robert Schmidtberger

Grace Unmeasured

Grace unmeasured, vast and free that knew me from eternity,
That called me out before my birth to bring you glory on this earth.
Grace amazing, pure and deep that saw me in my misery,
That took my curse and owned my blame so I could bear your righteous name.

*Grace paid for my sins and brought me to life;
Grace clothes me with power to do what is right.
Grace will lead me to heaven where I'll see your face,
And never cease to thank you for your grace.*

Grace abounding, strong and true that makes me long to be like you:
That turns me from my selfish pride to love the cross on which you died.
Grace unending all my days you'll give me strength to run this race,
And when my years on earth are through the praise will all belong to you.

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.

Song of Preparation:

Lord I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here I find my rest.
Without you I fall apart; you're the One that guides my heart.
Lord, I need you, oh, I need you; every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need you.

Where sin runs deep your grace is more;
Where grace is found is where you are
And where you are, Lord, I am free: holiness is Christ in me. *Refrain*

Teach my song to rise to you when temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you: Jesus, you're my hope and stay. *Refrain*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in his hand?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice; all creation rises to rejoice:
Behold our God seated on his throne: come let us adore him
Behold our King nothing can compare: come let us adore him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of his Words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds? *Chorus*

Who has felt the nails upon his hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave; Jesus, Savior risen now to reign! *Chorus*

Benediction

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