

Lord's Day Worship
Sunday, September 11, 2022
Worship Presider: Elder Ken Brown

Sing Praise to the Lord

Call to Worship

Psalm 33:1, 4-5

For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.

Come Ye Sinners

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, joined with power.
He is able, he is able; he is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money, come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better, you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness he requires is to feel your need of him.
This he gives you, this he gives you, 'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of his blood.
Venture on him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus can do helpless sinners good.
He is able, he is able; he is willing; doubt no more.

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

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Prayer of Confession

(from *Streams of Mercy*)

Almighty and holy God,

Your love for justice delights our hearts. If you were not a just and holy God, this world, which you created and govern down to the most microscopic detail, would be unbearable to live in. However, we also admit that your love for justice terrifies our souls. If we were to count the sins that we have committed only today, we know that we would deserve your great anger and punishment. We have entertained evil thoughts toward others and have preferred ourselves and our favorite people over those who are outcasts and in need of our love and care. We have made little of our sins, excusing them and even using your great forgiveness as a way of avoiding your commands. We have wearied you by laughing over evil things we ought to hate. We have grieved you by hating good things and calling them evil, simply because they bore us or make us feel uncomfortable. Father, we deserve your judgment. Lord, have mercy on us.

We thank you that you have poured out the whole fire of your wrath on Jesus in our place. He never wearied you, but brought you perfect delight during every moment of his life. He hated evil and loved good, and he went out of his way to minister to those who were marginalized and unloved. We thank you that you are willing to look on his obedience and allow it to stand in our place. Father, thank you.

Holy Spirit, there is nothing we can do to satisfy God's justice. If even our best acts are like filthy rags, then we need the goodness of Jesus to cover us just as

much on our best days as on our worst days. Remind us often that the blood of Christ erases our sin, and that God speaks to us in love, not in exasperation and disappointment. Ignite our hearts with a fiery gratitude that compels us to adore our Savior and to love what he calls good. Fill our hearts with your astonishing love, and send us out into a hurting world to love the fatherless, the widow, the strange, and the awkward, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 42:1-4

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
My chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
He will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
Or make it heard in the street;
A bruised reed he will not break,
And a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
Till he has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands wait for his law.

1 Peter 2:21-24

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Not In Me

No list of sins I have not done, no list of virtues I pursue,
No list of those I am not like, can earn myself a place with you.
O God! Be merciful to me—I am a sinner through and through!
My only hope of righteousness is not in me, but only you.

No humble dress, no fervent prayer, no lifted hands, no tearful song,
No recitation of the truth can justify a single wrong.
My righteousness is Jesus' life, my debt was paid by Jesus' death,
My weary load was borne by him and he alone can give me rest.

No separation from the world, no work I do, no gift I give,
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my hands;
I cannot cause my soul to live.
But Jesus died and rose again—the pow'r of death is overthrown!
My God is merciful to me and merciful in Christ alone.

Prayer for the Church and Congregation

Give Attention to His Powerful Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Sermon

"The Persistent Widow"

Reverend Jim Cossin

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 e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ! *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.

Song of Preparation:

Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat, where Jesus answers prayer;
There humbly fall before his feet, for none can perish there.

Thy promise is my only plea, with this I venture nigh;
Thou callest burdened souls to thee, and such, O Lord, am I.

Bowed down beneath a load of sin, by Satan sorely pressed,
By war without and fears within, I come to thee for rest.

Be thou my Shield and hiding Place, that, sheltered by thy side,
I may my fierce accuser face, and tell him Thou hast died!

O wondrous love! to bleed and die, to bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners, such as I, might plead thy gracious Name.

“Poor tempest-tossèd soul, be still; my promised grace receive”;
‘Tis Jesus speaks—I must, I will, I can, I do believe.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song of Response:

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of his promise in their hearts:
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise.
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost:
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth. *Chorus*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail! carried
For we know in Christ all things are possible,
For all who call upon his name. *Chorus*

Benediction

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