God’s People Gather for Worship
May 31, 2020

“By God’s grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity…” (excerpted from FPC Rome Mission Statement)

As you, and any with you, get ready for the live streamed service to begin, we encourage you to get your Bibles to have with you during the message. When the live stream does begin, please let us know you have joined the service by typing a greeting or message in the comments section on Facebook Live, and as others join us on Facebook, please welcome them.

Preparing for Worship

Gathering Song  “All Things Are Ready”

“All things are ready,” come, Come to the supper spread; 
Come, rich and poor, come, old and young, Come, and be richly fed.

“All things are ready,” come, the invitation’s given, 
Through Him Who now in glory sits at God’s right hand in heaven 
All things are ready

(chorus)
The door is open wide for Christ the Son has died
Oh feast upon the love of God
O come where you belong, sing resurrection songs
All things are ready, all things are ready, come

“All things are ready,” come, all barriers are removed
And God, in Christ, His precious love to fallen man has proved

“All things are ready,” come, tomorrow may not be;
O sinner, come, the Savior waits this hour to welcome thee
All things are ready

Welcome

Declaring God’s Praise

Unison Call to Worship  Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
All: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Leader: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;
All: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

All: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Song

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
   I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

(chorus)

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
   How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
   How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
   Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
   He bled and died to take away my sin...

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
   And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
   Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
   And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

Confessing Our Sin and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

ALL:
   Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to a lost and broken world.
Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
isolated than involved, callous than compassionate,
obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Remove the obstacles preventing us
from being your representatives to a world in desperate need of you.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your Holy Spirit in us.
This we pray in Jesus’ powerful name. Amen.
Assurance of Pardon

Song of Response

“Because He Lives”

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

(chorus)
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

And then one day, I’ll cross the river,
I’ll fight life’s final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to vict’ry,
I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know He reigns!

Offering and Passing of the Peace

(If you have already become familiar with online giving options, this would be a great time to go to our web site, or use the mobile app, to make your financial gift to the Lord to support the work of FPC.)

As a part of our worship today you are asked to “pass the peace” to those who worship in your home with you, and also to do so with someone else in our church body, or who may need someone to reach out to them today. To pass the peace you simply turn and say to one near you or text to someone, some variation of “May God’s peace be with you”. If someone “passes the peace” to you, your response is some variation of “And also with you”.

“Passing the Peace” is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and models a greeting that Jesus himself used with his disciples (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26). Peace was what Jesus promised to give to his disciples as he prepared to leave them (John 14:27). The apostle Paul opened many of his letters to his brothers and sisters with the words “Grace and peace be with you” (i.e. Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2).

Today many congregations pass the peace during a mutual greeting time in worship, through which we acknowledge our unity in Christ, our covenant membership vow to promote the peace of the Church, and our sincere desire that our fellow worshippers would know the overwhelming presence of God’s peace.
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

ALL:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hearing God’s Word

Scripture Reading
Ecclesiastes 2:12-23
(see last pages)

Sermon
”The Benefits and Limitations of Wisdom”
Rev. Bill Pardue

Scattering as Christ’s Church

Song
”Grace So Glorious”

Beneath the cross of Jesus Christ
No shadow remains for shame to hide
Redemption shone for all to see
Perfection bore our penalty
With a grace so glorious...

Immortal day the veil was torn
When mercy donned a crown of thorns
As law gave way to liberty
And freedom for humanity
With a grace so glorious.

Oh the glory of the Savior’s love
Surrounding our surrender
To know forever we are welcomed home

(chorus)
Crowned in glory to glory
Worthy is the Lord of all
The glory forever
Holy is the Lord

Triumphant praises without end
All hailing the King of righteousness
And every eye beholds the One
Our hearts were undeserving of
With a grace so glorious

O wondrous day when I will see
The face of Him who ransomed me
I'll fall in worship at His feet
And rise to reign eternally
In a grace so glorious
In a grace so glorious

Commissioning and Benediction
Ecclesiastes 2:12-23 ESV

12 So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. 13 Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. 14 The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. 15 Then I said in my heart, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?” And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. 16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! 17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. 18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? 23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.