
God's People Gather for Worship

Sunday, March 22, 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)*

Preparing for Worship

Everything this morning is different, yet everything is the same.

Our world is changing so fast that we cannot begin to take it in –

yet, as always, we are preparing to worship the one true, living God who never changes.

We do not sit in our usual places set apart for worship – yet the spaces where we are scattered are still made holy by the presence of the Spirit of God.

Though today the place where we worship,
and the people with whom worship may be different,
we are still the body of Christ, and, as is our privilege every Lord's Day,
we are entering into his presence, expectantly and reverently.

So, let us worship God!

Song of Preparation

"This is Amazing Grace"

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

(refrain)

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place, that You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life that I would be set free
Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me
All that you've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King above all Kings
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

(return to refrain)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy, worthy, worthy
(return to refrain)

Welcome

Declaring God's Praise

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith
Ch. 2, Sec. 1

ALL:

There is only one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection.
He is unchangeable, boundless, eternal, and incomprehensible.
He is almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, and most absolute.
He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable
and most righteous will, for his own glory.
He is most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering,
Abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin...

Song

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Confessing Our Sin and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Corporate Prayer of Confession

ALL: God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we at times choose darkness and cling to those things that hide the brightness of who you are. Immersed in ourselves, we have not walked in the path of new life. Forgive us, Lord, for we are sinners in need of your mercy. And renew us by the Holy Spirit that we may marvel in your light and tell of your glory forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Song

"Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But holly trust is Jesus' name

(refrain)

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

(return to refrain)

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne

(return to refrain)

Offering Our Thanks

As we worship, from wherever – with whomever, let this be a moment where we turn and speak to those around us, or simply to the Lord, words of thanks as our offering to God.

Interceding for God's World

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

Matthew 27:27-56 (see last page)

Sermon

"The Ultimate Social Distancing"
Rev. Bill Pardue

Scattering as Christ's Church

Song

"How Deep the Father's Love"

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no powers, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Unison Response:

ALL: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless His Holy name!

Benediction



²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. ³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" ⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Matthew 27:27-56 ESV
