

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, April 12, 2020

Welcome

Call to Worship

1 Corinthians 15:50-57 – [50] *I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
[55] “O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”*

[56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Songs

1) “Christ Is Risen”

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
My life is worth the living, just because He lives

Let no one caught in sin remain



Inside the lie of inward shame
We fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You bled for us

*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold you down
In strength You reign
Forever let your Church proclaim

*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead, He's alive, He's alive!



*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

2) "Here Is Love Vast as the Ocean"

Here is love vast as the ocean
Loving-kindness as the flood
When the Prince of Life our ransom
Shed for us His precious blood
Who His love will not remember
Who can cease to sing His praise
He can never be forgotten
Throughout Heaven's eternal days

On the mount of crucifixion
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love

Here is love that conquered evil:
Christ the firstborn from the grave.
Death has failed to be found equal
To the life of Him who saves.
In the valley of our darkness
Dawned His everlasting light;
Perfect love in glorious radiance
Has repelled death's hellish night.

That same love beyond all measure,
Mocked and slain by hateful men,
Lives and reigns in resurrection



And can never die again.
Here is love for all the ages,
Radiant Sun of Heav'n He stands,
Calling home His Father's children,
Holding forth His wounded hands.

Here is love vast as the heavens;
Countless as the stars above
Are the souls that He has ransomed,
Precious daughters, treasured sons.
We are called to feast forever
On a love beyond our time.
Glorious Father, Son, and Spirit
Now with man are intertwined.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
From there he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

[*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

Prayers of the People



Risen and reigning Lord,
truly you are a high priest
who has passed through the heavens.
Truly you were tested as we are,
and yet were without sin.
With boldness we approach your throne,
deeply assured of your mercy and grace
in our time of need.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

Your rising and your reigning
give hope to your people.
May all who live without hope today
taste and see that you are good.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

Your rising and your reigning
call us, your people, to testify to your goodness.
Equip each of us today
to be bold witnesses of Easter news.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

Your rising and your reigning
call all the nations of the world
to stop their scheming and seek your peace.
May your Spirit convict all people
to submit to your rule and to pursue true peace.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

Your rising and your reigning
call each of us to turn from the path of death
to the path of obedience and life.
Send your Spirit to strengthen our resolve,
and help us to live as people of life and light.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

Your rising and your reigning
bring life and light and healing.
May all who suffer in the valley
of the shadow of death and disease
know your healing presence.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**



Your rising and your reigning
are firstfruits of all that is to come:
justice, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.
May your kingdom come quickly.
These things we pray together, **O Lord of glory.**

May we, your Easter people,
never fail to bless and thank you
for your immeasurable love and sure promises.
All praise to you, risen Christ,
who with the Father and the Spirit lives
in perfect communion forever and ever. **Amen.**

Songs

3) "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun



4) "What a Beautiful Name It Is"

You were the Word at the beginning
One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Heaven was perfect without us
But Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against



What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, Our God reigns
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Prayer of Illumination



Good News during a Global Pandemic Romans 8:38-39

The whole Bible pivots on one weekend outside Jerusalem. (D.A. Carson)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3)

Three Good Gifts through Christ

We have a God whose good designs cannot be frustrated in Christ (vv. 28-30)

- Romans 8 is a chapter of great hope in the face of great difficulty. (see vv. 18-23)
- But Paul sees a divine conspiracy in our suffering—it's all working for our good. (v. 28)
 - The good is not circumstantial.

In the world you will have tribulation. (John 16:33)

- The good is conformity to Christ.

God has a master design or form (“his Son”), and now every circumstance—“all things”—is designed to shape, polish, melt, smooth, sculpt, frame, cast and contour us into that master design. He is pouring us into the mold of Christ’s perfect greatness. The idea of “conform” does not mean a superficial likeness, but something total. We are being remade from the inside out, from the depths. It is a likeness of essence. (Tim Keller)

- Our eternal joy is a certainty. (vv. 29-30)

We have a God who is for us personally and eternally in Christ (vv. 31-34)

- God is for the very sinners He has saved. (v. 31)

I remember that one day, as I was sitting in a neighbor’s home, and there very sad at the consideration of my many blasphemies; and as I was saying in my mind, ‘What ground have I to think that I, who have been so vile and abominable, should ever inherit eternal life?’ That word suddenly came upon me, ‘What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? That was a help to me. (John Bunyan)

- The way that we know that God is for us is not by looking for improving circumstances but by looking at Christ crucified. (v. 32)



But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Paul is telling us that there is no ultimate loss or irreparable impoverishment to be feared; if God denies us something, it is only in order to make room for one or other of the things He has in mind.... The meaning of 'He will give us all things' can be put thus: one day we shall see that nothing—literally nothing—which could have increased our eternal happiness has been denied us, and that nothing—literally nothing—that could have reduced that happiness has been left with us. What higher assurance do we want than that?" (J.I. Packer)

Everything is needful that he sends; nothing can be needful that he withholds. (John Newton)

- Even accurate accusations are not enough to dislodge God's favor. (vv. 33-34)
 - Our defense cannot be a rehearsal of our goodness but must be a rehearsal of the gospel.
 - If we began in grace, we shall remain by grace.

If then the Spirit even 'maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered,' and Christ died and intercedeth for us, and the Father 'spared not His own Son' for thee, and elected thee, and justified thee, why be afraid anymore? Or why tremble when enjoying such great love, and having such great interest taken in thee? (John Chrysostom)

We have a God who gives us the victory in Christ (vv. 35-39)

- The love that dominates these final verses is not our love but God's. (vv. 35, 37, 39)
- And nothing in all creation is a match for God!

Farewell, thou dear old man! We leave thee in possession of death till the resurrection day: but we will bear witness against thee, oh king of terrors, at the mouth of this dungeon; thou shalt not always have possession of this dead body; it shall be demanded of thee by the great Conqueror, and at that moment thou shalt resign thy prisoner. Oh ye ministers of Christ, ye people of God, ye surrounding spectators, prepare, prepare to meet this old servant of Christ, at that day, at that hour, when this whole place shall be all nothing, but life and death shall be swallowed up in victory. (John Ryland, Jr.)



Song

5) "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
'Til 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
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand



Offering

2 Corinthians 8:9 – [9] *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 – [7] *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*

Prayer of Intercession

For Our Church – That as we have been reminded of the powerful love of God in Christ Jesus, that we would actively abide in that love (John 15:9), that the love of Christ would control us (2 Cor. 5:14) even in the midst of anxious times, and that we would be eager to share about the love of God with all we are able to be in contact with.

For Our City – For Redeemer Community Church, pastor Joel Brooks, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation – For governing authorities at every level in every state and city in America, that God would give wisdom and foresight to help them lead in response to the pandemic; that God would supply them with sound counselors; they would rightly balance their care and attention for the many spheres of life over which they must make important decisions; and that they would be humbled—from our president down to every mayor—before God in prayer on a regular basis.

For Our World – For Christians all around the world who are forced to worship apart from their gathered congregations today, that God would present among his scattered people, that he would be pleased to reunite his people soon, and that God in his kindness might somehow use online worship gatherings to reach people all around the world with the saving news of the gospel.

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,



but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.”

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 – [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

