



Liturgy for Sunday, April 19, 2020

Welcome (Nick Murray)

Call to Worship

John 4:19-26 – [19] *The woman [at the well] said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. [20] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” [21] Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. [22] You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” [25] The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” [26] Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Songs

1) “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love Divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav’n, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;



Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy host above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till with Thee we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

2) "The Solid Rock"

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.



His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

Public Reading of Scripture (Jason Kirk)

Isaiah 56:3-8 – [3] *Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”*
[4] *For thus says the LORD:
“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
[5] I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.*
[6] *“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
[7] these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer*



for all peoples.”
[8] *The Lord GOD,*
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 25:6-7 – [6] *Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,*
for they have been from of old.
[7] *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;*
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Psalm 25:8-11 – [8] *Good and upright is the LORD;*
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
[9] *He leads the humble in what is right,*
and teaches the humble his way.
[10] *All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,*
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
[11] *For your name's sake, O LORD,*
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Songs

3) “Before the Throne of God Above”

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin



Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me
To look on him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

4) "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold
I'd rather be His than have riches untold
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hands

*Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today*

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame
I'd rather be true to His holy name

*Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today*

He's all that my hungering spirit needs
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead

Prayer of Illumination



Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus: Scattered with the Gospel
Acts 8:4-40

Three Truths about the Scattered Church and the Gospel

The gospel is entrusted to the whole church for the whole world (vv. 4-7)

- A recap and reorientation:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

- Acts 1:1-8:3 describes the advance of the gospel in Jerusalem.
- Beginning in Acts 8:4, the gospel is on the move beyond Jerusalem.
- The gospel moved through the “ordinary” members of the church, not just the apostles.
- Application:
 - God calls us to call others to Jesus.

As early as Acts 8 we find that it is not the apostles but the “amateur” missionaries, the men evicted from Jerusalem as a result of the persecution which followed Stephen’s martyrdom, who took the gospel with them wherever they went. It was they who traveled along the coastal plain to Phoenicia, over the sea to Cyprus, or struck up north to Antioch. They were evangelists, just as much as any apostle was... They were scattered from their base in Jerusalem and they went everywhere spreading the good news which had brought joy, release, and a new life to themselves. This must often have been not formal preaching, but informal chattering to friends and chance acquaintances, in homes and wine shops, on walks, and around market stalls. They went everywhere gossiping the gospel; they did it naturally, enthusiastically, and with the conviction of those who are not paid to say that sort of thing. Consequently, they were taken seriously, and the movement spread, notably among the lower classes. (Michael Green)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

- God scatters His people in order to scatter His gospel.

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place. (Acts 17:26)

The gospel is available to all but for sale to none (vv. 7-25)

- Main point of vv. 7-25: we see the wideness of God's mercy and the narrowness of God's gospel.
- The wideness of God's mercy is evident in the conversion of the Samaritans.
 - This mercy was attested by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - The delay of the Spirit *until the arrival of the apostles* authenticated the saving work of God among the Samaritans.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (Romans 8:9)

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:10)

- The narrowness of God's gospel is evident in the story of Simon the magician.
 - Apparently, Simon's faith was enthusiastic but insincere—what he really wanted was power.
 - But you can't buy the gift of God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:8)

- Praise God for the gift of salvation!

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." ³ The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. (Psalm 126:1-3)

The gospel is genuinely good news for the lowly (vv. 26-40)

- Philip was responsive to the Spirit's direction (vv. 26, 29, 39)...
- And God used the simple reading and explanation of His Word to bring life.
- Application:
 - We are reminded of the beauty of grace.
 - God's mercy is colorblind.



- We should pray for a richly diverse congregation.
- We are reminded of the wonder of the gospel.

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. (Isaiah 56:3-5)



Song

5) "O Church Arise"

O Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle-cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory



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 (Ryan Adams)

For Our Church – For our Growth Groups, that as we continue to meet digitally, we might be able to encourage one another and spur one another on to love and good deeds, that we would still be able to share in each other’s joys and bear each other’s burdens during this time, and that we would be thankful for the gift of community in the midst of difficulty.

For Our City – For Urban Hope Community Church, pastor Alton Hardy, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation – For a massive turning of hearts back to God during these times, that God in his mercy would use this pandemic to seize the attention of Americans and cause them to see the hopelessness of any savior that is not Jesus, and that the spiritual and eternal good that could come from this would surpass and redeem all the pain and trouble experienced by so many.

For Our World – For underdeveloped nations who are grappling with the coronavirus: that God would supply the needs of those who simply cannot afford to not work in order to feed themselves, that God would protect those whose living conditions are particularly unsuited for protecting themselves from the spread of the virus, and that other nations would extend relief for these particularly at-risk nations.

“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

Acts 1:8 – [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

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

