

Christ Fellowship Church
Liturgy for Sunday, March 22, 2020

Welcome

Heidelberg Catechism – Lord’s Day 1, Question #1

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death,
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit
he also assures me
of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for him.

Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

Psalm 16

[1] Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

*[2] I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.”*

[3] As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,

in whom is all my delight.

*[4] The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names on my lips.*

*[5] The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.*

*[6] The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

*[7] I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.*

*[8] I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*[9] Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.*

*[10] For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.*

*[11] You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Songs

1) "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
The Lord of Hosts, His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed,
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

2) "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!

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!

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!

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!

Children's Message

by Elizabeth Bryant

Songs

3) "O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

4) "Jesus, Strong and Kind"

Jesus said that if I thirst
I should come to him
No one else can satisfy
I should come to him

Jesus said that if I'm weak
I should come to him
No one else can be my strength
I should come to him

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said that if I fear
I should come to him
No one else can be my shield
I should come to him

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

Jesus said if I am lost
He will come to me
And she showed me on that cross
He will come for me

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

Certain Words for Uncertain Times
Philippians 4:1-9

Three Certainties for Uncertain Times

#1 - We can be sure that God wants us to stand firm in Him. (v. 1)

- Philippi was an especially beloved congregation in the heart of Paul.

It is true, of course, that what is an unspeakable gift of God for the lonely individual is easily disregarded and trodden under foot by those who have the gift every day. It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of the Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed. Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

- And Paul wanted those he loved to stand firm *in the Lord*.
 - Our circumstances may be radically different day-to-day, but our response should be entirely predictable.
 - We still need to pray, listen to the Word, love the Lord and love our neighbor.

#2 - We can be sure that God wants us to be united in the church. (vv. 2-3)

- We do not know why Euodia and Syntyche were at odds.
- We do know that Paul deeply desired their reconciliation.
 - Division in the church robs us of life.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!... It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. (Psalm 133:1, 3)

- Division in the church robs the world of witness.
- So, how do we pursue peace?
 - We embrace the high calling of peacemaking.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)
 - We get realistic about disagreement and the nature of peace.
 - We honor others in their service and their status.

#3 - We can be sure that God wants us to be joyful, not worried. (vv. 4-9)

- God calls us to joy in Him.
 - Paul is not unaware of the trials of this world.
 - Even still, joy is possible *in the Lord*.

Do not make the great joy of your life to be the fact that you are favored with this and that external privilege or ordinance, but rejoice in God. He changes not. If the Lord be your joy, your joy will never dry up. All other things are but for a season; but God is forever and ever.

Take care that you rejoice in the Lord when you have other things to rejoice in. When he loads your table with good things, and your cup is overflowing with blessings, rejoice in him more than in them. (Charles Spurgeon)

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19)

- How do we do this when times are hard?
 - We remain confident that the Lord reigns and is coming again.
 - We displace anxiety about anything with prayer about everything.

I have yet to meet a chronic worrier who enjoys an excellent prayer life. (D.A. Carson)

- We thank God for all His goodness and His mercies.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (Psalm 103:2)

Song

5) "Psalm 23"

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by

My soul He does restore again
And me to walk does make
Within the paths of righteousness
Ev'n for His own name's sake

And though I walk in death's dark vale
Still will I fear no ill
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still

A table thou has furnished me
In presence of my foes
My head Thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be

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

“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

John 16:33 – [33] *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

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