

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, March 29, 2020

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

Psalm 91

- [1] *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*
- [2] *I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*
- [3] *For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.*
- [4] *He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*
- [5] *You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
[6] nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*
- [7] *A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.*
- [8] *You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.*
- [9] *Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
[10] no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.*
- [11] *For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.*
- [12] *On their hands they will bear you up,*



*lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
[13] You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.*

*[14] "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.*

*[15] When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.*

*[16] With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."*

### Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

#### Songs

##### 1) "Psalm 100"

All people that on earth do dwell  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice  
Him serve with joy; His praise forth tell  
Come ye before Him and rejoice

Know that the Lord is God indeed  
Without our aid He did us make  
We are His flock; He does us feed  
And for His sheep He does us take

O enter then His gates with praise  
Within His courts your thanks proclaim  
With grateful hearts your voices raise  
To bless and magnify His name

Because the Lord our God is good  
His mercy is forever sure  
His truth at all times firmly stood  
And shall from age to age endure

##### 2) "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;



I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be

### Public Reading of Scripture

Job 1:1–2:10

*[1:1] There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. [2] There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. [3] He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east...*

*...[6] Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. [7] The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [8] And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" [9] Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? [10] Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. [11] But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." [12] And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in*



your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

[13] Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, [14] and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, [15] and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." [16] While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." [17] While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." [18] While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, [19] and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

[20] Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. [21] And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

[22] In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

[2:1] Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. [2] And the LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [3] And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." [4] Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. [5] But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." [6] And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

[7] So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. [8] And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

[9] Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." [10] But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



## Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Heavenly Father,  
If I should suffer need, and go unclothed,  
    and be in poverty,  
    make my heart prize thy love,  
    know it, be constrained by it,  
    though I be denied all blessings.  
It is thy mercy to afflict and try me with wants,  
    for by these trials I see my sins,  
    and desire severance from them.  
Let me willingly accept misery, sorrows, temptations,  
    if I can thereby feel sin as the greatest evil,  
    and be delivered from it with gratitude to thee,  
    acknowledging this as the highest testimony of thy love.  
When thy Son, Jesus, came into my soul  
    instead of sin, he became more dear to me  
    than sin had formerly been;  
    his kindly rule replaced sin's tyranny.  
Teach me to believe that if ever I would have any sin subdued  
    I must not only labour to overcome it,  
    but must invite Christ to abide in the place of it,  
    and he must become to me more than vile lust had been;  
    that his sweetness, power, life may be there.  
Thus I must seek a grace from him contrary to sin,  
    but must not claim it apart from himself.  
When I am afraid of evils to come,  
    comfort me by showing me  
    that in myself I am a dying, condemned wretch,  
    but in Christ I am reconciled and live;  
    that in myself I find insufficiency and no rest,  
    but in Christ there is satisfaction and peace;  
    that in myself I am feeble and unable to do good,  
    but in Christ I have ability to do all things.  
Though now I have his graces in part,  
    I shall shortly have them perfectly  
    in that state where thou wilt show thyself  
    fully reconciled,  
    and alone sufficient, efficient,  
    loving me completely,  
    with sin abolished.  
O Lord, hasten that day. ("Contentment" from *The Valley of Vision*)



Hebrews 7:25 – [25] *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

### Songs

#### 3) "His Mercy Is More"

What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What father, so tender, is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

What riches of kindness he lavished on us  
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more

*Praise the Lord  
His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more*

#### 4) "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"

Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone can heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,  
For every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline



Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

Has Thou not bid me seek Thy face,  
And shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace,  
Be deaf when I complain?  
No still the ear of sovereign grace,  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access,  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet,  
Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet



**All Things. Through Christ.**  
Philippians 4:10-13

**A Brief Explanation**

- Paul had a close relationship with the church at Philippi. (see v. 15)
- Again, the Philippian church had supplied Paul when in great need. (v. 10)
  - They had an opportunity, and they seized on that opportunity.

*This central focus on God transforms the transaction of giving and receiving among Christians from a human, horizontal exchange to a divine-human, triangular interaction. (Hansen)*

- What opportunities are around us or before us?

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:13)*

*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)*

- Yet, Paul was content either way—in much or in little.
  - Paul was not proudly self-reliant (Stoicism).
  - Paul was unashamedly God-dependent (Christianity).

*Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition. (Jeremiah Burroughs)*

*Give us this day our daily bread, (Matthew 6:11)*

**Four Applications...**

- These verses are calling for a refining of our hearts.

*Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, <sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. (Proverbs 30:8-9)*

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

*For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)*

- These verses are calling us to recalibrate our highest aims.
  - Paul's highest aim was conformity to Christ.

*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith*



*in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:8-11)*

- Do you see this as an opportunity to grow?
- These verses are calling us to reaffirm our belief in Providence.
  - A firm trust in Providence demands other firm trusts:

- A trust in God's power.

*In a clock, stop but one wheel and you stop every wheel, because they are dependent upon one other. So when God has ordered a thing for the present to be thus and thus, how do you know how many things depend upon this thing? God may have some work to do twenty years hence that depends on this passage of providence that falls out this day or this week. (Jeremiah Burroughs)*

- A trust in God's wisdom.

*A contented heart looks to and submits to God's disposal, that is, he sees the wisdom of God in everything. The Lord knows how to order things better than I. I only see things at present, but the Lord sees a great while from now. (Jeremiah Burroughs)*

*...to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. (Romans 16:27)*

- A trust in God's goodness.

*You are good and do good. (Psalm 119:68)*

- Answer the Evil One's lies about God with the Bible's truths about God.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

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

*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)*

- These verses are calling us to renounce confidence in ourselves.

*So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)*



## Song

### 5) "It Is Well with My Soul"

When peace like a river attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul

*It is well (it is well)*  
*With my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul*

Though Satan should buffet  
Though trials should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And has shed His own blood for my soul

*It is well (it is well)*  
*With my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul*

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord oh my soul

*It is well (it is well)*  
*With my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul*

And Lord haste the day  
When my faith shall be sight  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll  
The trump shall resound  
And the Lord shall descend  
Even so, it is well with my soul

*It is well (it is well)*  
*With my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul*



## 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 God would make us a people who understand and display contentment during this time; that we would know how to accept all things from God, whether we face plenty or want; that we would teach these things to our children and model them in our places of employment; that we would be able to bless the name of the Lord, whether he gives or takes away; and that in all things, Christ would be enough for us.

**For Our City** – For the many churches in our city who are trying to adjust to this new normal of online gatherings, that God would strengthen Birmingham churches and not weaken them, that they would steward this moment well as an opportunity for Kingdom advancement, and that they would steward their resources well for those in need in our city.

**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** – That this pandemic would bring about worldwide revival; that through this global crisis of health, people in the midst of a crisis of faith would find life in the gospel of Jesus Christ; and that from every nation and language, people in power and people in lowly positions, the rich and the poor, would all abandon every false hope and find certain hope in Jesus Christ.

“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 14:27 – [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

### **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

