

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, April 26, 2020

Welcome (Bart Box)

Call to Worship

Psalm 149:1-5 – [1] *Praise the LORD!*

*Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!*

[2] *Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!*

[3] *Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!*

[4] *For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.*

[5] *Let the godly exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Songs

1) "All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!



Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the Redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2) "Not in Me"

No list of sins I have not done,
No list of virtues I pursue,
No list of those I am not like
Can earn myself a place with You.
O God! Be merciful to me;
I am a sinner through and through.
My only hope of righteousness
Is not in me, but only You.

No humble dress, no fervent prayer,
No lifted hands, no tearful song,
No recitation of the truth,
Can justify a single wrong.
My righteousness is Jesus' life;
My debt was paid by Jesus' death.
My weary load was borne by Him
And He alone can give me rest.

No separation from the world,



No work I do, no gift I give
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my hands;
I cannot cause my soul to live.
But Jesus died and rose again;
The pow'r of death is overthrown!
My God is merciful to me
And merciful in Christ alone!

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Billy Shepard)

Philippians 3:4b-9 – [4b] If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. [7] But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] 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 [9] 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.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 – [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Songs

3) "Rock of Ages"

Rock of ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood
From Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's commands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone



Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked come to Thee for dress
Helpless look to Thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When my eyes shall close in death
When I rise to worlds unknown
And behold Thee on Thy throne
Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee

4) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness oh God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand has provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling;
Covenant promises fell not to me.
Then without warning, desire, or deserving,
I found my Treasure, my pleasure, in Thee.

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand has provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee,
I have no wisdom or pow'rs to employ;
Yet in thy mercy, how pleasing thou find'st me,
This is Thy pleasure: that Thou art my joy.



*Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand has provided
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Prayer of Illumination



Acts of the Risen Lord: The God of all Grace
Acts 9:1-31

God had you in view when he saved Paul.... God's design in converting Paul is to give you hope for yourself and for the people you want to see converted. (John Piper)

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost [sinner], Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:16)

#1 - God's Grace is Surprising

- Paul was *still* hunting down Christians when he became one. (vv. 1-2)
- Paul's encounter with Jesus was:

- Personal—Paul was called by name.

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? (Ezekiel 18:23)

- Revealing—Paul was confronted by the risen Lord.

The church is the body of Christ, the apple of his eye, graven on his hands, and he has pledged himself to her forever. (CFC Statement of Beliefs)

- Stunning—Paul was a most unlikely candidate for conversion.

... though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. (1 Timothy 1:13)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (1 Timothy 1:15)

- This passage illustrates powerfully that salvation belongs to the Lord.

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:7-8)

You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I did not then see what is now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape? The words “compel them to come in” have been so abused by wicked men that we shudder at them; but, properly understood, they plumb the depth of the Divine mercy. The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation. (C.S. Lewis)

- Is there still wonder in your life that you know Christ?



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)

- Is there still hope in your heart that others you know can know Christ?

John Newton, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy! (Tombstone of John Newton)

#2 - God's Grace is Transformative

- Paul was transformed *personally*.

- Before coming to Christ, Paul's behavior was beast-like.
- After coming to Christ, Paul was more of who he was created to be.

The glory of God is a man fully alive. (Irenaeus)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

- Paul was transformed *relationally*.

I never fail to be moved by these words. They may well have been the first words which Saul heard from Christian lips after his conversion, and they were words of fraternal welcome. (John Stott)

- Paul spent some time learning Christ, (re)learning his Bible, and learning his calling.
- But he spent no more time outside of God's family—he was welcomed immediately.

- Paul was transformed *vocationally*.

- At the beginning of the chapter, Paul is heading north from Jerusalem to persecute Christians; but at the end of the chapter, Paul is heading north from Jerusalem as a persecuted Christian.
- Consider the light you have seen, and consider those who remain in darkness.

You are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)



Song

5) "Only a Holy God"

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God!

*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*



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 (Nick Murray)

For Our Church – For unity within our body as we look to the future re-opening of meetings and activities in our church, that God would supply wisdom to the team of people who will help us think through the strategies and phases involved in this process, and that we would all do our best to consider one another well and the myriad of needs and responsibilities within our congregation.

For Our City – For Shades Mountain Baptist Church, pastor Danny Wood their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation – For the citizens of our country living in poverty, for low-income workers who cannot afford not to work in order to provide for their families, for those who have lost their jobs and have no safety net to help them, for those with little access to affordable healthcare resources, for kids who depend on their schools for meals, that God would sovereignly provide for these and that Christians would devote themselves to good works so as to help cases of urgent need (Titus 3:14).

For Our World – For the return of Jesus Christ, for the restoration of all things and the redemption of God’s people, for the resurrection of the dead and the reunion of the saints in heaven, for the banishment of sin and all of its wretched effects, and the final consummation of the Kingdom of 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

Romans 16:20 – [20] The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

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

