



Liturgy for Sunday, May 3, 2020

Welcome (Bart Box)

Call to Worship

Ephesians 2:11-22 – [11] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[12] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. [19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Songs

1) “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!



Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is within me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen sound from His people again
Gladly forever adore Him

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

2) "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Christ the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me
And my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow
When my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won
Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused



I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now
Lift your eyes to Calvary
This my ballast of assurance
See his love forever proved
I will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Christ the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory
As we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon
Clouds behind and life secure
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endure

Christ the sure of our salvation
Ever faithful, ever true
We will hold fast to the anchor
It shall never be removed

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Ryan Adams)

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;



and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

Songs

3) "I Stand Amazed"

I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me
a sinner condemned unclean

*How marvelous, how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me*

For me it was in the garden,
He prayed: "Not my will, but Thine."
He had no tears for His own griefs,
But sweat-drops of blood for mine.

*How marvelous, how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me*

He took my sin and my sorrow
and made them His very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
and suffered and died alone

*How marvelous, how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me*

When with the ransomed in glory



His face I at last shall see
Will be my joy through the ages
to sing of His love for me

*How marvelous, how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me*

4) "Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne



To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Prayer of Illumination



Acts of the Risen Lord: To the Gentiles Also
Acts 10:1–11:18

The Story in Six Scenes

Scene 1 – The Gentile (Acts 10:1-8)

- Cornelius, a Gentile—even a God-fearing Gentile—was an outsider.

Scene 2 – The Vision (Acts 10:9-16)

- See Leviticus 11:1-47 for laws about unclean animals.

Scene 3 – The Meeting (Acts 10:17-33)

- Even as God set Israel apart for his purposes, He was not setting aside every other nation and excluding them from salvation.
- Israel had taken God’s restrictions and turned them into a way of restricting the Gentiles from ever getting close to God.
- Jesus grabs hold of something that Peter had adhered to so strictly (the food laws) then He loosens it, He opens it up, so that Peter might see how Jesus has opened up His family to include all peoples.

Scene 4 – The Gospel (Acts 10:34-43)

- **Ephesians 2:12-13** – *[12] Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Scene 5 – The Validation (Acts 10:44-48)

- The fact that this experience mirrors Pentecost is designed to show the Jews that God had accepted the Gentiles as full and equal members in the family.
- **Ephesians 2:18** – *[18] For through [Jesus] we both [Jew and Gentile] have access in one Spirit to the Father.*
- Christianity is no longer a distinctly Jewish religion.

Scene 6 – The Conference (Acts 11:1-18)

Three Truths for Today

- 1) God in heaven despises any us/them distinctions in his church on earth (11:3, 17).



- **Ephesians 2:11-18** – [11] *Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[12] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.*

- “The fundamental emphasis of the Cornelius story is that, since God does not make distinctions in his new society, we have no liberty to make them either. Yet, tragic as it is, the church has never learned irrevocably the truth of its own unity or of the equality of its members in Christ. Even Peter himself, despite the fourfold divine witness he had received, later had a bad lapse in Antioch, withdrew from fellowship with believing Gentiles, and had to be publicly opposed by Paul (Gal. 2:11ff). Even then, the circumcision party continued their propaganda, and the Council of Jerusalem had to be called to settle the issue (Acts 15). Even after that, the same ugly sin of discrimination has kept reappearing in the church, in the form of racism (color prejudice), nationalism (‘my country, right or wrong’), tribalism in Africa and casteism in India, social and cultural snobbery, or sexism (discriminating against women). All such discrimination is inexcusable even in non-Christian society; in the Christian community it is both an obscenity (because offensive to human dignity) and a blasphemy (because offensive to God who accepts without discrimination all who repent and believe). Like Peter, we have to learn that ‘God does not show favoritism’ (10:34).” -John Stott

- [Q] Where is there an us/them distinction in your heart? And how will you repent of it?

2) The gospel rightly received makes clean those who are unclean (10:15, 28; 11:9).

- **1 Corinthians 6:9b-11** – [9b] *Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, [10] nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

3) This story of gospel advancement sweeps us in and sends us out to the ends of the earth (10:34-35, 43).

- [Q] How might our church be reshaped by your faithful witness during these days? Even if we can’t go far at present, even if God has temporarily caused us to be shut in, where has he sent you out?

- **Revelation 7:9-10** – [9] *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*



Song

5) "Grace Greater than All Our Sin"

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Sin and despair like the seawaves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

*Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,
What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a cleansing tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today.

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe;
All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

*Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*



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 (Steve Killough)

For Our Church – For our church, that the Lord would continue to grow our church in diversity along ethnic, socioeconomic, and age lines; that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8); and that our unity amidst diversity would be a testimony to the reconciling power of the gospel.

For Our City – For Faith Presbyterian Church, pastor Jason Sterling, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation – For our nation, that God would heal our country of the sin of racism, that we would work to bring about significant change in areas where there is rampant social injustice, and that local churches around our nation would be diverse pictures of the reconciliation found in the gospel.

For Our World – For the persecuted church around the world, that they would know that even though they are persecuted, they are not forsaken; that though perplexed, they wouldn't be driven to despair; and that the life of Christ would be manifested even as they suffer for his sake (2 Corinthians 4:8-11).

**"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 Peter 2:9-10 – [9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

