

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, May 31, 2020

Welcome (Bart Box)

## Call to Worship

Psalm 145:8-13 – [8] *The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*  
[9] *The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.*  
[10] *All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!*  
[11] *They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,*  
[12] *to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*  
[13] *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

## 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 Lament & Assurance of Restoration** (Nick Murray)

Isaiah 59:8-9 – [8] *The way of peace they do not know,  
and there is no justice in their paths;  
they have made their roads crooked;  
no one who treads on them knows peace.*  
[9] *Therefore justice is far from us,  
and righteousness does not overtake us;  
we hope for light, and behold, darkness,  
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.*

Isaiah 33:5-6 – [5] *The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high;  
he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness,*  
[6] *and he will be the stability of your times,  
abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge;  
the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.*

**Songs**

3) "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*

**Prayer of Illumination**



## Acts of the Risen Lord: Standing Up for the Gospel Acts 15:1-35

*[I ask] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:21)*

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (Matthew 10:34-35)*

### A Question about the Gospel

- Paul and Barnabas were conducting their mission to the Gentiles from the church at Antioch.
- Some from the Jerusalem church came to the church at Antioch to demand:
  - Circumcision of the Gentiles as a condition of salvation.
  - Adherence to the Law by the Gentiles as a condition of salvation.

*The issue can be clarified by a series of questions. Is the sinner saved by the sheer grace of God in and through Christ crucified, when he or she simply believes, that is, flees to Jesus for refuge? Has Jesus Christ by his death and resurrection done everything necessary for salvation? Or are we saved partly through the grace of Christ and partly through our own good works and religious performance? Is justification sola fide, 'by faith alone', or through a mixture of faith and works, grace and law, Jesus and Moses? Are Gentile believers a sect of Judaism, or authentic members of a multi-national family? It was not some Jewish cultural practices which were at stake, but the truth of the gospel and the future of the church. (John Stott)*

### A Stand for the Gospel (vv. 6-35)

- Consider the testimony of the Peter, Paul, and Barnabas. (vv. 6-12)
  - Peter argued that the gift of the Holy Spirit settles the matter completely.

*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)*
  - Paul and Barnabas also pointed to the works of the Lord as confirmation.

*And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. (Deuteronomy 26:8)*
  - Peter warned that those who insisted on circumcision were putting God to the test.

*But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness, and put God to the test in the desert; (Psalm 106:14)*

*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. (Matthew 23:13)*



- Application:
  - God opposes legalism because it robs Him of glory and others of grace.
  - Grace and gift are the distinguishing marks of Christianity.
 

*Other faiths are the religion of do. Christianity is the religion of done. (Mark Dever)*
  
- Hear the conviction and wisdom of James. (vv. 13-21)
  - James saw the conversion of the Gentiles as part of God’s plan of redemption.
  - James insisted on faith alone as the way of salvation but flexibility on sensitive matters as the way of the saved.
    - They were called to stand up for the defense of the gospel.
    - They were called to stand down for the advance of the gospel.
  - Application:
    - We don’t want to be contentious people, but we must contend for the gospel.
 

*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)*
    - The Law is a teacher, but only Jesus is a Savior.
 

*Every day we are tempted to smuggle our character into his work of grace. (Ferguson)*
  
- Notice the joy and encouragement of the church at Antioch. (vv. 22-35)
  - Legalism promises salvation but leads to slavery.
 

*The righteous shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17)*

*Then I grasped that... through gift and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. (Martin Luther)*
  - Legalism robs the church of its great and unique message.
 

*The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God, and by her members’ love for one another and for the world. (CFC Statement of Beliefs)*



## Song

### 4) "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!*

### 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 (Dave Nix)

**For Our Church** – For next Sunday, as we hope to return to worship in-person, that God would protect us all from spreading sickness to one another, that God would allow us to focus on him as we gather instead of being anxious about possible infection, and that we would be especially mindful of those who are unable to come together at this time.

And for church members Timothy and April Sobitz and their children as they move to Cavalier, North Dakota for Timothy to pastor Cavalier Baptist Church.

**For Our City** – For Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, pastor Bob Flayhart, their elders, staff, and congregation.

**For Our Nation** – For full and swift retribution to all perpetrators of racial injustice in America; that Christians would open their eyes to such injustices, rightly grieve over it, and wholeheartedly work against it; that all of those in authority, from the president to police officers, would be compelled by the Spirit of God to protect all of God's image bearers as they promote liberty and justice for all; and that God, the judge of the earth, would rise up and right all wrongs for his name's sake.

**For Our World** – For the nation of Brazil as it grapples with the coronavirus: that God would grant all in leadership wisdom and compassion with how to best help their citizens; that the already fragile economy would survive; and that the faithful churches in Brazil who already



do so much to care for their people would have all of their needs supplied so as to continue on in fruitful, gospel-filled mercy ministry.

“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

*2 Corinthians 13:14 – [14] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

### 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

