

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:1-4

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

Singing: *Be Thou My Vision* #642

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Fa-ther, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Be Thou my battleshield, sword for my fight, Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tow'r, Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power
4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
5. High king of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading: The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Jesus Christ Philippians 3:4-11

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of 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

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—

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Prayers of Repentance

Prayer of Petition

Sermon: The Struggle for Intimacy in Christ

Song of Solomon 1:1-7

1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine; 3 your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you. 4 Draw me after you; let us run. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you.

5 I am very dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. 6 Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept! 7 Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon; for why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?

I. God Calls All of His People to Spiritual Intimacy

II. Sin has Broken and Continues to Warp True Intimacy

III. Lasting Joy Can Only be Found in King Jesus

Singing: *My Jesus I Love Thee*

1. My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

2. I love Thee because Thou has first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

3. I love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as thou lendest me breath
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus 'tis now

Benediction

Giving Tithes and Offerings to Christ Church of Wiesbaden:

(All giving is tax deductible for those filing in the US or Germany.)

1. US Dollars Online: go to ccwiesbaden.com, click the 'GIVE' tab and then click the link 'HERE' under point 1. Christ Church of Wiesbaden is in the drop-down menu. Our US treasurer's address is: PO Box 3133, Auburn, AL 36831-3133.

2. German Konto Information: Commerzbank- Christ Church Wiesbaden e. V.
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