

Call to Worship: Psalm 30:8-12

To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Singing: Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

(Music available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oibli1rz7mw>)

1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong.
Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command?
And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Chorus: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

2. What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh, Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? ...*Chorus*

3. Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore. ...*Chorus*

Prayer: Pray for God's presence and glory in your worship.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:1-11

1 Peter 4:1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. **3** For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. **4** With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **5** but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of Petition: Please feel free to add your own personal prayer requests to this list.

- Pray for wisdom for our government leaders and decision makers.
- Pray that we may be able to attend worship services together soon.
- Pray for the German Hauskreis
- Pray that we will be able to purchase a meeting space or Gemeindehaus to further God's ministry
- Pray for Kristy Ryan's grandmother who has COVID-19, for the family as they cannot be with her.
- Praise and continued prayers for the recovery of Venessa Shields' father, from his recent surgery.
- Pray for our marriages and the salvation of the church's children
- Pray for the protection of our German friends whose children are returning to school.
- Pray for our students who are away from their families
- Pray for God's protection from the virus that as some restrictions are lifted
- Pray for the lonely and isolated
- Pray for the Bible Study led by Helen and Johannes and the BSF study led by Rachel Gibson
- Pray for our hearts as we hear God's word preached

Sermon: Growing Together in Maturity Ephesians 4:13-16

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

I. Christ, The Measure of Maturity (13)

Hebrews 10:24 ... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

II. The Threat of Worldliness (14)

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

III. The Goal of Unity (15-16)

1. The Importance of Love

2. The Interdependence of Members

3. The Increase of Usefulness

Singing: Be Thou My Vision #642

(Music available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjq)

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.

Close by praying for God's guidance for this day and for the week.