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 preparing our hearts

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.

– 1 Peter 2:9 ESV

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 \*\* call to worship

*Leader:* Praise the LORD!

**All:** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

*Leader:* Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

**All:** Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

*Leader:* He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

**All:** The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

*Leader:* They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

**All:** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

*Leader:* Holy and awesome is his name!

– Psalm 111:1-3, 6-9 ESV

## THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. Oh, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

Words: Maltbie Davenport Babcock; Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin Lawrence Sheppard. Public Domain.

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**\*\* prayer of invocation**

*Leader:* We thank you, Father in Heaven, that you have welcomed us this afternoon according to your promises, which have their “Yes” and “Amen” in Christ Jesus. Because of the grace you have poured out through him, you are near us as a Father is to his children. By your Holy Spirit, counsel our hearts, beyond our own wisdom and will, to comprehend how wide and how long, how high and how deep your love is for us in Christ, that we may be filled with you. Thank you for our great High Priest, who intercedes for us now, that we can have assurance that you hear our prayers on his account. Therefore, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

**All:** We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

\* Here, "catholic" means "universal," and refers to the Christian church in all places

## FATHER, LONG BEFORE CREATION

Father, long before creation, thou hadst chosen us in love.  
And that love, so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same.  
His compassion and his covenant through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children, must forever praise his name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day.  
Mercy, free and never failing, moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us, that his only son he gave.

Loving Father, now before thee, we will ever praise thy love.  
And our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb.

Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb!

“Father, Long Before Creation,” Words: Chinese hymn, trans. by Francis Johnson, Public Domain.  
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## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

– 1 John 1: 8-9<sub>ESV</sub>

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** **God of all wisdom and power,  
You have given us the Spirit of truth, the hope of salvation,  
And the riches of an everlasting inheritance.  
Yet, we often do not live as if these things are true,  
Trading it for a lie, to pursue the world's fleeting pleasures.  
We are inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge,  
To ambition and pride,  
Which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings  
Between ourselves and others.  
Too often have we both offended and grieved you.  
Forgive our sins and permit us to partake of the blessing  
You have promised in the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

– Colossians 1:13-14<sub>ESV</sub>

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God, the Lord Most High.  
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in you, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is: the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a beautiful Name it is – nothing compares to this – what a beautiful Name it is:  
The Name of Jesus.

We couldn't find heaven without you, so Jesus, you brought heaven down.  
My sin was great, your love was greater, what could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is: the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.  
What a wonderful Name it is – nothing compares to this – what a wonderful Name it is:  
The Name of Jesus.

Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you, you silence the boast of sin and grave.  
The heavens are roaring the praise of your glory, for you are raised to life again.  
You have no rival, you have no equal, now and forever, God, you reign.  
Yours is the kingdom, yours is the glory, yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus Christ, my king.  
What a powerful Name it is – nothing can stand against – what a powerful Name it is:  
The Name of Jesus.  
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

“What a Beautiful Name,” Words: Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood. Altered words: Brooke Lewis.  
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*Leader:* 1 Corinthians 2:6-16  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

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prayer

*An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.*

*Leader:* All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is 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,  
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,  
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

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\*\* passing the peace

*Leader:* Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ while being careful to practice safe social distancing.*

**Series** | “The Glory of Christ in the Life of the Church”**Sermon** | “Fervent Prayer for the Church”**October 25, 2020**

**Ephesians 1:15-23** ESV | **15** For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, **16** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

- 1. Growth in Faith and Love**
- 2. Deep Spiritual Insight**
- 3. A Church Filled with His Fullness**

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**\*\* gospel charge**

*Leader:* In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

**All:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

– Colossians 3:16<sub>ESV</sub>

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## WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

*The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, please wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. There are two tabs on the communion sets. The clear tab on top opens the bread. The tab underneath opens the grape juice.*

*Please hold on to your materials to dispose of on your way out of the sanctuary. If you have a gluten allergy, please indicate this when prompted and to your server, to receive a gluten-free wafer.*

***NOTE TO PARENTS:*** *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

*Minister:* Lift up your hearts.

**All:** We lift them up to the Lord.

*Minister:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**All:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Minister:* It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Hear us then, as we pray.

**All:** Father, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his willing obedience and suffering during his life on earth, and for his sacrifice of his body and blood on the cross. As we partake of these, your gifts of the bread and the cup, give us assurance that we are made whole by his body and our sins are pardoned through his blood. Fill our minds with your peace and turn our eyes to heaven, where Christ is at your right hand interceding for us. Enable us to offer up ourselves in service to Christ and unite us with each other through your Spirit so that we may continue in the living hope of our Savior’s coming in glory. Hear us now through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Minister:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*As the elements are distributed, examine your heart and reflect on the meaning of this supper, that you would take it in a worthy manner.*

*As you are able, please continue to joyfully give to the work of the Lord through our church by giving [online](#) or depositing your offering in the box with the deacon.*

*Note: [Other ways to give](#), including mailing a check to the office, are available.*

## THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone; Music: AURELIA, Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Public Domain.

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**\*\* benediction**

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**\*\*doxology**

**All:        Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
              Praise him all creatures here below;  
              Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
              Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**