
prelude

BRASS ENSEMBLE

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming – Michael Praetorius

preparing our hearts

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

– Matthew 13:44-46_{ESV}

**** call to worship**

Leader: Sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

All: “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Leader: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

All: All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

– Adapted from Revelation 15:3-4_{ESV}

Leader: O come, let us adore him.

** Please stand if you are able

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: George Frederick Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: God of our hope and salvation: For those who seek a Savior, lead them to that lowly manger, to the child born to bring freedom and forgiveness. For those who seek assurance, lead them to the Light of the World who opens eyes to understanding, hearts to God's Word, and souls to the truth. For those who seek forgiveness, lead them to a grace beyond comprehension, to wholeness, healing, and peace. Draw near us as we draw near to you this morning in worship. Let us see that you are great, and let your greatness order our thinking, our feeling, our wanting, and our living. By the grace of the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: What is repentance unto life?

All: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does with grief and hatred of sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

— *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 87*

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me; they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure; come disaster, scorn and pain.
In thy service pain is pleasure; with thy favor loss is gain.
I have called thee Abba Father; I have stayed my heart on thee.
Storms may howl and clouds may gather; all must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care,
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee; think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee; child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee; God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

"Jesus I My Cross Have Taken," Words: Henry Lyte, Public Domain; Music: Bill Moore.
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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

– 1 John 1:6 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,

We confess our poor sense of direction, and our feet falter in the dim lights we follow into paths not meant for us to tread. We let ourselves become confused and easily distracted, and we lose our way. You have given us instruction and revealed your very Word, but we fail to follow the signs you provide.

Yet we are angry that we are lost, surprised that we have stumbled, and discouraged by our failures. So we retreat to the shadows of sin and foolishness.

Forgive our waywardness, O God. Forgive our stubborn squint that would rather stagger around in our own wisdom rather than sprint and bound in the grace you so readily give. These mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, to whom you lead us that we might know the Way to you.

Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: The words of our Lord: “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

– John 12:46 ESV

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

– John 1:5 ESV

Thanks be to God!

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all – here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid – here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death – this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home – here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

“In Christ Alone,” Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend.

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Leader: Joshua 24:14-15; Ruth 1:11-17; Philippians 3:7-11
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

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.**

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.

While your preschool children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-5.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

When instructed, greet those around you, saying, "The peace of Christ be with you." When the music begins, please be seated and prepare yourself for the hearing of God's Word.

Series | “The Christ-Centered Life”**Sermon** | “Losing Yourself to Follow Jesus”**December 29, 2019**

Matthew 16:24-28 ESV | 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

sermon notes

1. Follow Whom
2. Follow How
3. Follow Where

**** gospel charge**

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

All: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

– John 12:24-26 ESV

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

All: (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

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, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will reflect during the passing of the bread and sing the printed hymn during the passing of the cup.

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.*

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: Let us pray.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But it is your right, O God, to give mercy to whom you please. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink of him, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. 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 bread is distributed, examine your heart and reflect on the meaning of this supper, that you would take it in a worthy manner.

As the cup is distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: Anonymous, arranged by Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; —
Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; —
Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, — with heart and soul and voice; —

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
Now ye hear of end-less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je-sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je-sus Christ was born to save!

Earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now
He hath o - pened heav-en's door, and man is bless-ed ev - er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last-ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! — Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! — Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! — Christ was born to save!

Words: Translated by John Mason Neale; Music: In Dulci Jubilo, German melody. Public Domain.

announcements

Please note the announcements found on Pages 16-20 of your bulletin.

**** benediction**

Minister: Peace on the earth!

All: **Good will to mankind!**

Minister: May the peace of God the Father, the grace of Christ the Son, and the hope of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

**** 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.**