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**preparing our hearts**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

– Psalm 95:1-3<sub>ESV</sub>

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**\*\* call to worship**

*Leader:* I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All:** **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

*Leader:* Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

**All:** **I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

*Leader:* Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

– Psalm 34:1-5<sub>ESV</sub>

## REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come,  
And take his servants up to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

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## **\*\* prayer of invocation**

*Leader:* You are the Sovereign One, O God, and rightly to be blessed. You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The faces of your children reflect your radiance. For you have established your covenant among us and have sealed us with the promise of your Holy Spirit. Aglow with the splendor of your great redemption, we gather to worship you in your glorious presence. Grant that we may behold your majesty in this very hour. Amen.

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## **\*\* affirmation of faith**

*Leader:* What is true faith?

**All:** True faith is a sure knowledge whereby I accept as true  
All that God has revealed to us in his Word.  
At the same time it is a firm confidence  
That not only to others, but also to me,  
God has granted forgiveness of sins,  
Everlasting righteousness, and salvation,  
Out of mere grace,  
Only for the sake of Christ's merits.  
This faith the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel.

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 21

## HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said – to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

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## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

– Romans 8:15 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** O Lord, our great God, all holy and awesome;  
Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love;  
We are a people sojourning to our home with you,  
But we forget to press onward in faith.  
We sin and live like we belong in this world that rebels against you.  
We have idled aimlessly, rather than living out your mission and call.  
Forgive our forgetfulness and stir in us hope for the things to come.  
Restore us, not because of our own righteousness,  
But because of your great mercy –  
Because of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
He is our Savior and the voice that calls us homeward to you,  
So we pray these things in his name. 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 ESV

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## DEAR REFUGE OF MY WEARY SOUL

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on thee, when sorrows rise  
On thee, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies  
To thee I tell each rising grief, for thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief, for every pain I feel.

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail, I fear to call thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail, and all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee? Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to thee, though prostrate in the dust.

Hast thou not bid me seek thy face, and shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace be deaf when I complain?  
No still the ear of sovereign grace, attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access, to breathe my sorrows there.

Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat.  
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet,  
Thy mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat.  
With humble hope attend thy will, and wait beneath thy feet.

“Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul,” Words: Anne Steele, Public Domain. Music: Kevin Twit.  
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*Leader:* Revelation 3:14-22  
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 | “Exodus: From Captivity to Liberty”

Sermon | “The Gift of God’s Presence”

September 20, 2020

**Exodus 33:1-6, 12-23** <sup>ESV</sup> | 1 The LORD said to Moses, “Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ 2 I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

4 When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.’” 6 Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

12 Moses said to the LORD, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” 14 And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

17 And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” 18 Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” 19 And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” 21 And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

1. God's Presence Lost
2. God's Presence Pursued
3. God's Presence Restored

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**\*\* gospel charge**

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

**All:** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

— Romans 6:13-14<sup>ESV</sup>

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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. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.*

***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: 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 elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.*

## GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore;  
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.  
Strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee;  
Songs of praises I will ever give to thee.

Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Bid my anxious fears, bid my anxious fears –  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Bid my anxious fears, bid my anxious fears, goodbye.

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah,” Words & Music: William Williams & Jeremy Casella.  
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*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.*

## ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.  
All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;  
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away. \*

*\* Chorus:*

I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound (I am bound) I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. \*

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face and in his bosom rest? \*

“On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand,” Words: Samuel Stennett, Music: Christopher Miner.  
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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.**