

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 9, 2020

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalm 19:1

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 17 (p. 788)

Hymn of Preparation*

Hymn 111

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning 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,
O 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 heav'n be one. Amen.

* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, you are rich in mercy to all those who call upon you. Hear us as we come before you to confess our sins and ask for your forgiveness.

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and others, and that we have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for our many sins. We are sorry for our sins against you and others, and we earnestly repent of them. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

All: We praise you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Psalm 40

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 466

I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
It was not I that found, O Savior true;
No, I was found of thee.

Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea—
’Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,
As thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but O the whole
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee;
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul,
Always thou lovedst me. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 4. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. *How many Persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology*

Hymn 731

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.

Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Acts 8:1-25

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [based on Psalm 102:17-27])

Hymn 27

Great God, How Infinite Art Thou!

Great God, how infinite art thou!
How poor and weak are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to thee.

Thy throne eternal ages stood,
Ere seas or stars were made:
Thou art the ever-living God,
Were all the nations dead.

Eternity, with all its years,
Stands present in thy view;
To thee there's nothing old appears;
To thee there's nothing new.

Our lives through various scenes are drawn,
And vexed with trifling cares;
While thine eternal thought moves on
Thine undisturbed affairs.

Great God, how infinite art thou!
How poor and weak are we!
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on Job 42:1-6)

Sermon

“The Savior of the World”
John 4:27-42

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 441

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His Name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his Name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen! Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In his sermon titled “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection,” Thomas Chalmers explains that the way we can expel the heart’s desire for the things of this evil age is to set our affections on the superior joys and pleasures of God in Christ Jesus. He writes toward the end of his sermon, “The best way of casting out an impure affection is to admit a pure one; and by the love of what is good, to expel the love of what is evil.” We see this truth at work in the Samaritan woman’s heart, who upon her conversion began to tell her neighbors about Christ because he had become the superior joy in her life. Before her conversion, her life was marked by sin and shame; after her conversion, her life was marked by a new affection, not for sin, but for Christ. Westminster Confession of Faith 13.1 explains how this takes place in the heart of every believer:

Those who are effectually called and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them, are further sanctified—truly and personally—through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them. The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, its various lusts are more and more weakened and put to death, and those called and regenerated are more and more enlivened and strengthened in all saving graces, leading to the practice of true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

1. For review, read John 4:20-26. What does it mean to worship the Lord “in spirit and truth” according to the context of verse 24?
2. In what sense is Jesus the “Savior of the world” according to John 4:42, and why is this title important in the context of Jesus’ ministry in Samaria?
3. What stands out to you about the Samaritan woman’s testimony in John 4:28-30? What do you learn about evangelism from these verses?
4. What “will” and “work” is Jesus referring to in John 4:34? Compare this verse with John 5:30; 6:38; 10:37-38; 12:49-50; 17:1-5. How do these verses help you understand the significance of Jesus’ declaration on the cross: “It is finished” (John 19:30)?
5. What is the significance of the Samaritans’ profession of faith in John 4:42? How does their profession reveal personal trust in Christ?
6. In preparation for next week, read John 4:43-54. What do you think is the significance of this sign that Jesus performed in Galilee? Think about it in terms of John the Evangelist’s purpose statement in John 20:30-31.