

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Every good and perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,  
who does not change like shifting shadows.

**James 1:17**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 22:1-22 (p. 790 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC. TO THE TUNE OF "THE DOE OF THE MORNING." A PSALM OF DAVID.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?**

O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

**Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.**

In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

**They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.**

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

**All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

**Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

**From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

**I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.**

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

**My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.**

Dogs have surrounded me;

**a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.**

I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

**They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.**

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

**I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.**

***Holy, Holy, Holy!***

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
 Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
 Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host, to declare that you are holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of your glory!

**All:** But as we think about your holiness, we recognize our unworthiness all the more. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Help us to lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and strengthen us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand.

**All:** All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins****Assurance of Forgiveness**

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**ADORATION AND PRAISE****First Reading**

Exodus 16

**Congregational Response** (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 305

***Arise, My Soul, Arise***

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears; the bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
 Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands, my name is written on his hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede, his all-redeeming love, his precious blood to plead;  
 His blood atoned for ev'ry race, his blood atoned for ev'ry race, and sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary; they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.  
 "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

My God is reconciled; his pard'ning voice I hear; he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear;  
 With confidence I now draw nigh, with confidence I now draw nigh, and "Father, Abba, Father!" cry. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

*The Nicene Creed (p. 846)*

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-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

### Tithes and Offerings

#### Gloria Patri

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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

James 1

### Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [from Psalm 103])

Hymn 78

#### *O Bless the Lord, My Soul*

O bless the Lord, my soul; let all within me join,  
And aid my tongue to bless his name, whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness, and without praises die.

'Tis he forgives your sins, 'tis he relieves your pain,  
'Tis he that heals your sicknesses and makes you young again.

He crowns your life with love when ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell has sovereign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good; he gives the suff'ers rest:  
The Lord has judgments for the proud and justice for th'oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways he made by Moses known,  
But sent the world his truth and grace by his beloved Son. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer** (based on Psalm 106)

**Sermon**

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Fifth Sign: Feeding the 5,000”  
John 6:1-15

**1. Jesus tests his people, just as God did in the Old Testament (John 6:1-9).**

Exodus 16:4-5; James 1:12-15

God never tempts us to sin, but he does test our faith.

**2. Jesus feeds his people, just as God did in the Old Testament (John 6:10-13).**

What does this sign reveal about Jesus?

His Compassion (Mark 6:34)

His Deity (John 20:30-31)

His Provision

His Grace

**3. Jesus will suffer and die for his people, just as God promised in the Old Testament (John 6:14-15).**

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5-6

John 10:17-18

**GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving**

Hymn 660

*O God Beyond All Praising*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
At blessings without number and mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise. Amen.

**Benediction**

**Congregational Benediction Response**

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One,  
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

Each of the four Gospels records Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the five thousand men, plus women and children (Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15). Like the other miracles of Jesus, it serves as a sign of his deity. For example, the Gospel of Luke directly links this miracle to Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ of God (Luke 9:20). It also recalls many Old Testament miracles in which God cared for his people by providing bread for them. God fed Israel with bread from heaven (manna) in the desert (Exodus 16). God fed Elijah with bread beside the brook, and then continued to feed him, the widow at Zarephath, and her son (1 Kings 17). God also fed one hundred men with only twenty loaves of bread through the hand of Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-44). So when Jesus miraculously provided bread for the multitude in the wilderness, he was demonstrating God's continued abundant provision for his peoples' needs. But the deeper significance of the feeding of the five thousand is explained in John 6:35 when after feeding the large crowd, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Jesus is our spiritual provision. When we feed upon him unto forgiveness and eternal life, he promises that he will raise us up on the last day (John 6:54).

1. For review, read John 5:30-47. Who or what are the witnesses to Jesus described in this passage? What makes these witnesses credible? How do you witness to Jesus in your life?
2. Read John 6:1-9 and review our First Reading from Exodus 16. According to Exodus 16:4-5, how and why did God test Israel?
3. What did Philip and Andrew's response to the situation reveal about their faith? How can you work against thinking as they did when you face challenging moments in your life?
4. What is the difference between testing and temptation? Read and consider James 1:12-15 and Matthew 4:1-11. What comfort do you find in knowing that Jesus did not fail when he was tempted, and what lessons do you draw from how he responded to temptation?
5. Read John 6:10-13. What are some interesting details that you notice in this passage about what happened that day? What does this *sign* reveal about Jesus? Take a few moments to consider the four sub-points about these verses from the sermon.
6. Read John 6:14-15 and Deuteronomy 18:15-18. Why did the people identify Jesus as the Prophet? Why did he refuse to allow them to make him king?
7. In preparation for next week, read John 6:16-21. What do you think Jesus was teaching his disciples through this miracle of walking on water?

# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.  
Use our church directory to pray for an individual or family each day.*

## **Monday, March 30**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 13:1 - 15:23; Luke 8:40 - 9:6; Psalm 71:1-24; Proverbs 12:5-7  
Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 29  
Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

## **Tuesday, March 31**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 16:1 - 17:20; Luke 9:7-27; Psalm 72:1-20; Proverbs 12:8-9  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 61  
Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

## **Wednesday, April 1**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:1 - 20:20; Luke 9:28-50; Psalm 73:1-28; Proverbs 12:10  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 62  
Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Taiwan and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, April 2**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 21:1 - 22:30; Luke 9:51 - 10:12; Psalm 74:1-23; Prov. 12:11  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 63  
Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

## **Friday, April 3**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 23:1 - 25:19; Luke 10:13-37; Psalm 75:1-10; Prov. 12:12-14  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 64  
Pray for: Our pregnant mom and for our members who have ongoing health needs.

## **Saturday, April 4**

Scripture: Deut. 26:1 - 27:26; Luke 10:38 - 11:13; Psalm 76:1-12; Prov. 12:15-17  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 65  
Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

## **Sunday, April 5**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Psalm 77:1-20; Proverbs 12:18  
Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 66  
Pray for: Our worship this morning.

## MISSIONS CORNER

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain  
and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

**Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize**

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

**Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand**

dahlfred@gmail.com

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

ebyuganda@gmail.com