

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 31, 2020

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 16:13-14

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing

Responsive Reading

Psalm 84 (p. 814 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—

a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Hymn of Preparation

Hymn 347

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 heav'n 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 ev'ry 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 ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song

The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale, against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'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. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Our strong and faithful God, we come before you acknowledging that you are light and that in you there is no darkness at all.

All: We confess that 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 renew our wills. We desire to be conformed more and more to the likeness of Christ; grant us grace and work in us by your Holy Spirit to that end.

All: We ask all this through the merit and mediation 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

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 1

Congregational Response

Hymn 331

Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit

Come, O come, thou quick'ning Spirit,
God from all eternity!
May thy power never fail us;
Dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light
Banish all the gloom of night.

Grant our hearts in fullest measure
Wisdom, counsel, purity,
That we ever may be seeking
Only that which pleaseth thee.
Let thy knowledge spread and grow,
Working error's overthrow.

Show us, Lord, the path of blessing;
When we trespass on our way,
Cast, O Lord, our sins behind thee
And be with us day by day.
Should we stray, O Lord, recall;
Work repentance when we fall.

Holy Spirit, strong and mighty,
Thou who makest all things new,
Make thy work within us perfect
And the evil foe subdue.
Grant us weapons for the strife
And with vict'ry crown our life. 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

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

John 8:31-47

Congregational Response

Hymn 101

Come, Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King,
Help us thy name to sing,
Help us to praise.
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be,
Hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (based on John 14:15-17)

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“The Truth Will Set You Free”
John 8:31-47

1. We are born enslaved to sin (John 8:34)
Penalty (Romans 5:12)
Power (Romans 5:14)
Presence (Romans 5:13)
2. God's grace reveals our sin (John 8:33)
3. Christ alone can set us free from sin (John 8:36)
Romans 5:18-21; 6:5-11

GOD'S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Hymn 468

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

My faith has found a resting place, from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One, his wounds for me shall plead.

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.*

Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul I come to him, he'll never cast me out.

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.*

My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God:
salvation by my Savior's name, salvation thro' his blood.

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.*

My great Physician heals the sick, the lost he came to save;
for me his precious blood he shed, for me his life he gave.

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me. Amen.*

Benediction

Congregational Benediction Response

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor,
rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.

LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

When most people think about freedom, they think it is the ability to do whatever a person wants. However, the Bible teaches us that the indicator of true freedom is not that a person can do whatever they want, but that they are enabled by the Holy Spirit to do what pleases God. He created us, and as our Creator, he knows what is best for us. So when we are enabled by the Spirit to live according to God's ways, we are truly free. Apart from the grace of God, our minds and our wills remain under sin's dominion (Romans 8:7).

The Good News for those who trust in Christ is that in Christ's death on our behalf, sin's dominion over us was broken. We are now no longer under the complete power of sin. In Adam, our minds were darkened, our souls were corrupt, we were depraved. But now in Christ we are the new man and the new woman. We have received the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). We are now free to do what pleases God.

1. For review, read John 8:12-30. What does Jesus mean when he declares that he is the Light of the world?
2. Read John 8:31 and John 15:1-11. What does it mean to abide in Jesus' Word? How can a Christian know if they are abiding in his Word?
3. What truth is Jesus talking about in John 8:32? Compare this verse with John 14:6. Why are verses like these viewed as offensive to non-Christians, especially in our modern day?
4. Read John 8:33-47. What aspects of Jesus' discussion with these people reveal that they are actually not true believers and are still slaves to sin?
5. Read Romans 5:12-21 and 6:5-11. Do you believe that you are free from the penalty and power of sin? How should this truth reveal itself in your life?
6. When will we be free from the presence of sin? Read and reflect on Revelation 21:1-4. What kind of emotions stir in your heart when you think about the new heaven and the new earth?
7. In preparation for next week, read John 8:48-59. What do you think is the significance of the "I AM" statement in verse 58 in light of the context of the verse?

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, June 1

Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:1 - 19:10; John 20:1-31; Psalm 119:153-176; Proverbs 16:14-15

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 5

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

Tuesday, June 2

Scripture: 2 Samuel 19:11 - 20:13; John 21:1-25; Psalm 120:1-7; Proverbs 16:16-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 8

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

Wednesday, June 3

Scripture: 2 Samuel 20:14 - 21:22; Acts 1:1-26; Psalm 121:1-8; Proverbs 16:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 9

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Trinidad and Tobago and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, June 4

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1 - 23:23; Acts 2:1-47; Psalm 122:1-9; Proverbs 16:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 10

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Friday, June 5

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:24 - 24:25; Acts 3:1-26; Psalm 123:1-4; Proverbs 16:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 11

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health needs.

Saturday, June 6

Scripture: 1 Kings 1:1-53; Acts 4:1-37; Psalm 124:1-8; Proverbs 16:24

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 12

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, June 7

Scripture: 1 Kings 2:1 - 3:2; Acts 5:1-42; Psalm 125:1-5; Proverbs 16:25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 13

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