

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 18, 2021

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 101 (p. 821)

I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise.

I will be careful to lead a blameless life— when will you come to me?

I will walk in my house with blameless heart.

I will set before my eyes no vile thing.

The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me.

Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil.

Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret him will I put to silence;

whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me;

he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.

No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house;

no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

Every morning I will put to silence all the wicked in the land;

I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the LORD.

* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

O come, let us sing to the Lord, to him our voices raise;
With joyful noise let us the Rock of our salvation praise.

Let us before his presence come with praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to him with grace, and make a joyful noise.

For God's a great God and great King; above all gods he is.
The depths of earth are in his hand; the heights of hills are his.

To him the spacious sea belongs, for he the same did make;
The dry land also from his hands its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship him; let us bow down withal,
And on our knees before the Lord, our Maker, let us fall. Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Eternal and almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature. We confess that we transgress your holy commandments daily in thought, word, and deed.

All: We confess that we have wandered from your ways and followed our own paths. We have wasted your gifts, squandering them in self-service. We have set up idols in our hearts instead of worshipping you.

Leader: O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow and shame we repent and hate our sins. We pray that you would forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness by the blood of Jesus Christ.

All: Grant that from now on we may serve and please you in newness of life, through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Isaiah 41:1-20

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month)

Hymn 517

I've Found a Friend, O Such a Friend!

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
He loved me ere I knew him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
And thus he bound me to him;
And round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which naught can sever,
For I am his, and he is mine,
Forever and forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
He bled, he died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
But his own self he gave me!
Naught that I have mine own I'll call,
I'll hold it for the Giver,
My heart, my strength, my life, my all
Are his, and his forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
All pow'r to him is given,
To guard me on my onward course,
And bring me safe to heaven:
Eternal glory gleams afar,
To nerve my faint endeavor:
So now to watch, to work, to war;
And then to rest forever.

I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
So kind and true and tender,
So wise a Counselor and guide,
So mighty a defender!
From him who loves me now so well
What pow'r my soul can sever?
Shall life or death, shall earth or hell?
No! I am his forever. Amen.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 70. *Which is the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment is, “You shall not commit adultery.”

Q. 71. *What is required in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Q. 72. *What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Doxology*

Hymn 732

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*

Ephesians 1

Congregational Response (Psalm of the Month [Psalm 22])

Hymn 9 (printed on p. 12)

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name

All you that fear Jehovah's name,
His glory tell, his praise proclaim;
You children of his chosen race,
Stand... in awe before his face,
Stand... in awe before his face.

The suffering One he has not spurned,
Who unto him for help has turned;
From him he has not hid his face,
But answered his request in grace,
But answered his request in grace.

O Lord, your goodness makes me raise
Amid your people songs of praise;
Before all them that fear you, now
I worship you and pay my vow,
I worship you and pay my vow.

For all the meek you will provide;
They shall be fed and satisfied;
All they that seek the Lord shall live
And never-ending praises give,
And never-ending praises give.

The Lord's unfailing righteousness
All generations shall confess;
From age to age shall men be taught
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought,
What wondrous works the Lord has wrought. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Clayton Willis

“Friends of God”
John 15:12-17

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 172

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame:
He has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
Called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
He has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us sing, though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down!
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu’ror’s crown:
He who washed us with his blood soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
When through grace in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
He who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“You have washed us with your blood; you are worthy, Lamb of God!” Amen.

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to TRINITY)

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.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.

Monday, July 19

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 28:1 - 29:30; Romans 5:6-21; Psalm 15:1-5; Proverbs 19:18-19

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 31

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

Tuesday, July 20

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 1:1 - 3:17; Romans 6:1-23; Psalm 16:1-11; Proverbs 19:20-21

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 41

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

Wednesday, July 21

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 4:1 - 6:11; Romans 7:1-13; Psalm 17:1-15; Proverbs 19:22-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 42

Pray for: Our covenant children, and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in the Caribbean Netherlands and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, July 22

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 6:12 - 8:10; Romans 7:14 - 8:8; Psalm 18:1-15; Prov. 19:24-25

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 43

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

Friday, July 23

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 8:11 - 10:19; Romans 8:9-25; Psalm 18:16-36; Proverbs 19:26

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 44

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

Our pregnant mom.

Saturday, July 24

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 11:1 - 13:22; Romans 8:26-39; Psalm 18:37-50; Prov. 19:27-29

Catechism: The preaching, and for our Sunday School teachers.

Sunday, July 25

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 14:1 - 16:14; Romans 9:1-24; Psalm 19:1-14; Proverbs 20:1

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 46

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

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Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand

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LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In today's passage, Jesus, in the context of a command to love one another, makes a surprising statement to his disciples. He says, "No longer do I call you servants,...but I have called you friends" (v. 15). When we consider that God the Son himself is speaking those words to all his disciples it is even more surprising! The only true and living God, the Creator of all things considers us his friends! In this passage Jesus once more teaches us that love is essential for friendship. Just a few verses before our passage Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love" (John 15:9-10). Jesus' love for his disciples moved him to lay down his life for them. This kind of love ought to characterize believers' love for one another.

The second aspect of friendship is seen at the end of v. 15: "...I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). Friends share and communicate with each other. In the Scriptures, Jesus opens up and shares with us everything he has heard from his Father. As his friends, Jesus brings us into his confidence, and reveals his plans to us (Eph. 1:8-10). Because we are his friends, we are invited to do the same with him. What a great and wonderful blessing to be friends of God!

1. Why is it surprising that Jesus would call his disciples "friends"?
2. Before this, was anyone else in Scripture called God's friend? If so, who? (See Isa. 41:8 and Ex. 33:11.)
3. Does being God's friend make us equals with God? Why or why not?
4. What is essential for friendship according to John 15:13? How did Jesus demonstrate his love for us?
5. How do we demonstrate our friendship with Jesus (John 15:14)?

All You That Fear Jehovah's Name

9

You who fear the LORD, praise him! Ps. 22:23

♩ F Gm F C F 7

1. All you that fear Je - ho - vah's name, his glo - ry tell, his
 2. The suf - f'ring One he has not spurned, who un - to him for
 3. O Lord, your good - ness makes me raise a - mid your peo - ple
 4. For all the meek you will pro - vide; they shall be fed and
 5. The Lord's un - fail - ing righ - teous - ness all gen - er - a - tions

C G7 C F C7 F 7 D7

praise pro - claim; you chil - dren of his cho - sen race, stand ... in
 help has turned; from him he has not hid his face, but an - swered
 • songs of praise; be - fore all them that fear you, now I wor - ship
 sat - is - fied; all they that seek the Lord shall live and nev - er -
 shall con - fess; from age to age shall men be taught what won - drous

Gm C7 F C F Gm F C F 7

awe be - fore his face, stand ... in awe be - fore his face.
 his re - quest in grace, but an - swered his re - quest in grace.
 • you and pay my vow, I wor - ship you and pay my vow.
 end - ing prais - es give, and nev - er - end - ing prais - es give.
 works the Lord has wrought, what won - drous works the Lord has wrought.