

Order of worship 2 August 2020

Gathering in God's Presence

Greeting

The Bible is full of greetings, and our worship leader greets us in God's name.

2 Peter 2:1

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Psalm of the Day

We begin our worship with a silent meditation on our Psalm of the Day during the Prelude. Use this time to focus your hearts and minds on God as he speaks to us through his Word.

Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- 1 I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- 4 One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- 5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- 6 They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- 7 They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- 9 The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- 10 All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
- 11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
- 14 The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

- 15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
- 16 You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- 17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
- 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- 19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
- 20 The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- 21 My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Prelude

Prelude in D Major

Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer (1656-1746)

Ruth Pfister, organ

*Call to Worship

Our Call to Worship draws us into conversation with our God, and is usually taken from our Psalm of the Day. We address one another and enter God's presence together.

From Psalm 145

Leader: Exalt your God and King! Praise his name forever!

People: Every day we will praise him! We will extol his name for ever and ever!

Leader: The LORD is great and worthy of great praise! Who can fathom his greatness?

People: We could never fathom his greatness. But we will tell of his great works and his mighty deeds from one generation to another!

Leader: Will you speak with your mouth of his might? Will you take his praise upon your lips?

People: We will! And may every creature rise and praise him with us!

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation

Having called one another to God's praise, we turn to God and ask for his presence and power.

From Psalm 145

Almighty God and gracious Heavenly Father, we join together today to do what we, and the whole creation, were made to do: to stand in your presence; to marvel at the wonders of your hand; to lift up our voices and sing your praise; and to tell generations of your works. In the moments we have together, we can only explore a tiny fraction of your wondrous works in creation and in redemption. In our worship today, we can open our minds and our ears, but we can only take in a small portion of your truth and grace. Enlarge our hearts and our minds! Expand our willingness to obey! Make our hearts and

lives spacious enough to receive all of the goodness that you have prepared for us today, that we might leave here better equipped to honor you among the nations, and indeed among all your creatures. We praise you, O Father, in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever. Amen!

*Song of Praise

With our Song of Praise, we begin our worship by exalting God for who he is and what he has done.

Hymn 455: All Creatures of Our God and King

Text: Francis of Assisi (1225); trans. Draper (c. 1910)

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (1623)

Ruth Pfister, organ

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light,
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day
Unfoldest blessings on your way,
O sing ye! Allelujah!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them God's glory also show!
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,

O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care,
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one,
alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

We ask God to make the Scripture fresh, encouraging, and convicting to us as we sit under its ministry.

From Psalm 145

Gracious God, in order for us to faithfully transmit our testimony of your goodness to the next generation, we need you to speak your Word freshly to our hearts today. In order to bring forth praise from our mouths and from our lives, we need you to fill our imaginations with all that is promised to us, and all that has been fulfilled among us, according to your Word. As we lift up our eyes to you, and as we open our hands to you, show us your generosity and feed us by the bread from your storehouses of grace. Indeed, nourish us with your most satisfying and delicious Word himself, our dear Lord Jesus Christ, as we feed upon him now. In his name: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- 1 I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- 4 One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- 5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- 6 They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- 7 They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
9 The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
10 All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
14 The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
16 You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
20 The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
21 My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Examination

We reflect on the Psalm of the Day and use it to examine our hearts and minds, leading us to confession of our sin. Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 145 as we reflect on it together.

Our Psalm of the Day is about the call on God's people to observe the marvels of God, to sense the kindness and compassion of God toward every creature, and to extend the knowledge of God's marvelous works and his compassionate heart to geographically across the face of the earth, and generationally down through the ages.

To respond to this call from God requires the humility of attentiveness to what he has done and is doing. To respond requires the humility of receptivity, as we place ourselves within God's tender care and especially at his mercy—trusting that he is indeed compassionate. To respond then requires that we adopt the same compassionate posture toward others, which alone can motivate us to speak forth,

and *live* forth, the compassion of our God into the experience of our neighbor, who needs the Lord as we ourselves do.

Are we attentive? Do we marvel at his deeds? At his compassion? Have we become compassionate? Have we conveyed the kindness and compassion of our God to our neighbor? Or are we too proud, self-absorbed, and self-righteous to enter into the Father's family business of extending his compassion and extolling his wonders?

Let us confess our sins together.

Silent Confession

Take a moment to reflect and to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

Prayer of Confession of Sin

Gracious God and Father, we confess that our eyes are quick to look after our own needs, and slow to take in the wonders of your hands. We repent, for our mouths are quick to criticize others, but slow to recount your compassionate deeds of mercy in Christ Jesus, and slow to convey your compassionate heart to our neighbor. Forgive us for our hardness of heart. Soften our hearts by your Spirit's conviction, that we as your church might become the soil in which your grace can grow and the fruit of kindness can be manifest. For Jesus' sake, and for the sake of our neighbor, who needs him as we do, we pray: Amen.

*Assurance of God's Pardon

People of God, the psalmist declares that the Lord is good to all, and has compassion on all that he has made. But the psalmist says that the Lord specifically is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love toward those who seek his forgiveness and humbly call upon him. Upon this, your confession, I announce to you the pardon of your sins, through Jesus Christ, whose every impulse was always to declare his Father's words and works, and whose very mission was to convey the Father's heart of forgiveness and compassion; his slowness to anger; his richness of love. In his coming, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and present intercession, we are assured that the heart of God is soft toward we who humbly confess our hard hearts and seek the soft-heartedness of Jesus. Go, and live soft-hearted, compassionate, wonder-telling lives, empowered by the Spirit for proclamation and kindness. Amen!

*Gloria Patri

Ruth Pfister, organ

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!

Let the Children Come to Him!

Children's Message

Pastor Sam E. Gyorfi

Preaching of the Word

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Romans 2:1-4

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Meditation

Blessed Assurance

Based on "Assurance" by Phoebe Knapp
and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J.S. Bach
(arr. J. N. Beck; transcribed by C. Courtney)
Randal Turner, Baritone
Ruth Pfister, Organ

Sermon

The Spirit's Fruit (Part 5): Kindness

Responding to God's Word

*Song of Response

Hymn 298: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Text: Frederick William Faber (1854)

Tune: IN BABILONE (Dutch melody, arr Röntgen)

There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice,

Which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

Are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings

Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

Prayer for Our Tithes and Offerings

Please consider taking this time to make a contribution to the ministry of our church through an online bank transfer, PayPal, or Twint. For more, [click here](#).

Offertory

Te Voglio Bene

Unknown

Harry White, Saxophone

*Doxology

Ruth Pfister, organ

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!

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Prayers of the People

We join together in prayer. We praise God; we pray for our world, for the church, for ourselves, and we pray the Lord's Prayer.

At the end of each petition, the leader will say:

Lord, in your mercy ...

And the congregation may respond:

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Now we pray together the prayer our Lord taught us, saying:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Going with God's Mission and Blessing

Welcome of Guests

Announcements

*Sending Song

Hymn 322: Spirit of the Living God

Text: Daniel Iverson (1935)

Tune: LIVING GOD (Iverson)

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me,

Fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me!

*Commissioning and Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!

Postlude

Fugue in F Major

J.S. Bach

Ruth Pfister, organ