

Lord's Day Worship

April 19, 2020

Dear Missio Dei Church Family,

I am reading through the Gospel of John as a potential sermon series. As I read it I am struck by how attuned Jesus is to the people around him. Many encounters start with the simple introduction of who he sees.

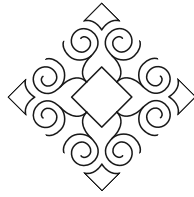
- Jesus sees Andrew and Peter following him, and he engages their inquiring hearts (John 1:38).
- Jesus sees Nathanael and encourages his devout worship (John 1:47-50).
- Jesus sees the paralyzed man and heals him (John 5:6-10).
- Jesus sees the hungry crowd and feeds them (John 6:5-11).
- Jesus sees the grief of Mary and Martha and weeps with them (John 11:33).

As Jesus looks around, his eyes are active and engaged. He notices people. And he looks long enough to see people's physical *and* spiritual needs. But what he sees is just the start of the story; he then moves in and is present with them.

My question is: Is this true of me? Is it true of you? There are many days when I am distracted and don't notice the people around me. My eyes are open, but my brain is elsewhere. There are other days when I *choose* to look past the people around me and toward getting a task done. Then there are those "coronavirus" moments when I see people, but choose to avoid them because of fear or caution.

Jesus lived a life that was practiced at seeing. So much so, that even as he hung on the cross, experiencing intense and unrelenting pain, he saw his mother in distress and asked his friends to care for her (John 19:26). At that point, we would not expect him to be noticing others, but he did. As he struggled for breath, he would have been right to focus on the much more significant and critical task of securing our eternal union with God. But even at that moment, Jesus sees the people around him and cares for them.

I want to grow in this. I want to notice the precious people that the Lord has surrounded me with. But it is not easy to do. There are so many things that compete for my attention. There have been moments I have been too engrossed with a task, or something on my phone, to even look up! Yet, I am challenged by how the gospel writers bring us into Jesus'



line of sight, and how what Jesus sees directs his next steps. So I must ask myself, who is in my midst that I am not seeing? I continue to ask the Lord to give me his eyes to see.

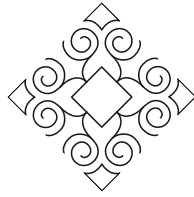
And I assume I am not alone in this. Do you hide behind the shield of busyness, thinking that what you are engaged in at the moment is more important than those the Lord has placed in your path? I do. Seeing takes work. It means looking away from myself (and what I am doing) and entering into the world of another. And it takes practice. Here are a few questions to get us started:

- Are you, like me, failing to see?
- What captures your attention as you move through your day?
- What do you notice yourself looking at?
- Are you careful with what steals your attention?
- Do you see your affection growing for what you spend time seeing (both good and bad)?

It helps me to know that Jesus sees me even now. We are never alone as he invites us to see and bless the people he places in our midst. I want to grow in doing what Jesus himself did. Will you pray with me that we grow in seeing?

I am praying and longing for our time where we can meet together again. May our longing for worshiping together bring God great glory, deepen our relationships with one another, and fuel an evangelistic fervor for sharing the gospel of our Risen Christ!

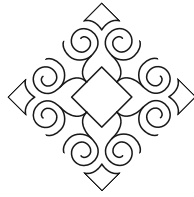
Until that day,
May the peace of Christ be with you!



BEFORE YOU START

- Pick a time and place. We know that disruptions may come up, but do your best to preserve this time. It is powerful when we slow down, take time to worship, and pay attention to the way God is moving. Put phones and other distractions away.
- Designate a leader to transition through the elements of the liturgy. Portions that say “together” will be read or prayed by everyone. This practice will help you stay focused and help the service flow more naturally.
- Don’t feel a need to rush through everything! If God’s doing something, linger there.
- Remember your participation in the whole of it matters! Try to avoid just listening to the sermon, but participate in as many of the elements you can. Every element is formative and shaping us in particular and powerful ways, not just the preached Word of God. If it’s time to sing, sing with passion. If it’s time to read, read with confidence.
- We put everything in order so you can simply scroll down through the order of the liturgy. We know that this might feel a little weird, but as you interact with our content this morning, know that you are not alone. God is with us and many others around the world are worshiping in the same way today.
- Last but not least, give tons of grace to yourself. Dependent on if you’re engaging solo or with others will affect how this plays itself out. Kids will adjust how things go and that’s ok. Experiment one way this week and if something doesn’t work, adjust it. God is with you. God is in you. He loves you and will guide you in these times.

We love you all and can’t wait to gather again as a whole church body, but until then, lead with faith and confidence. We trust that God will be using this time of scattering to gather us to Himself and deepen our roots in Him.



Order of Worship

April 19, 2020

Call to Worship – Psalm 24

Leader: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

**Family: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?**

Leader: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

**Family: He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Family: Who is this King of glory?

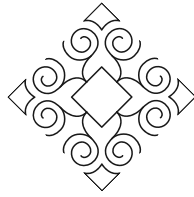
Leader: The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!

**Family: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Leader: Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

Songs of Adoration

Sing the first two songs on the YouTube or Spotify play list. The lyrics are found on the last page.



Affirmation of Our Faith

Let us affirm what we believe to be true by reading from Westminster Longer Catechism, Questions 1 & 2:

Leader: What is the chief and highest end of man?

Family: Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

Leader: What evidence is there for God?

Family: Our internal, natural understanding along with the external evidence of God's works plainly indicates that there is a God. However, salvation only comes through God's revelation of himself in his word and Spirit.

Prayers for Christ's Church and the World

Spend a few moments taking prayer requests. Pray with and for each other, our community, our church, our missionaries (Ambrose and Camiola Families), our nation, and the world.

Sermon

"The Paradox of Strength from Weakness" (2 Corinthians 11:16-33)

Watch our teaching video on our church's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMH1wOLwfQUI6Xydt0HQP_Q/

Sermon Discussion

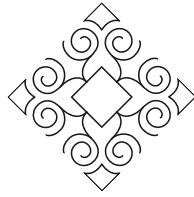
See the next page for discussion questions. Close your discussion in prayer.

Songs of Response

Sing the last **two** songs on the YouTube or Spotify play list.

Giving of Your Offerings

If you are a part of our church family, one of the ways that we worship is through the faithful giving of our tithes and our offerings. Here are flexible ways you can contribute during this time: <https://www.mdchurch.us/giving>



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

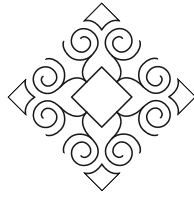
1. Who is the most impressive public speaker that you have heard? What made their style or content impressive? Share about your experience.
2. What words might the Corinthians have used to describe their experience of being led by these charismatic giants or super apostles? In contrast, what does Paul boast about as the mark of his own leadership?

3. Read Matthew 20:25-27

"But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,' (Matthew 20:25-27, ESV)

Define servant leadership? Compare this to how the super apostles were leading. How might that apply to your day to day life?

4. What do you think was the motivation for Paul's commitment to others spiritual welfare? How was it seen in chapter 11?
5. Paul not only identified with those to whom he ministered, he cared enough for them to accept personal hardship in order to benefit them. Out of your commitment to Christ, how might you this week share yourself?



King of My Heart

Verse 1

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

Chorus

You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh

Verse 2

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song

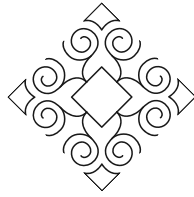
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

Bridge

You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down

Ending

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on



Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless
peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is
mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

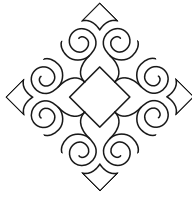
No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me



My Worth Is Not In What I Own (At The Cross)

Verse 1

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love at the
cross

Verse 2

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at
the cross

Chorus

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Verse 3

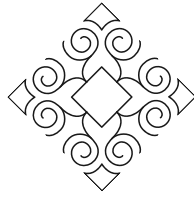
As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross

Verse 4

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the
cross

Verse 5

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the
cross



How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

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