

Sunday Worship

July 19, 2020

Order of Worship



Welcome to Worship

Rev. Lee Gray

Call to Worship

Jeff & Betsy Almond

We come praising your mighty deeds, O God. We praise Your righteousness, Yours alone.

From our youth You have taught us, and we proclaim Your wondrous deeds. So even through all our days do not forsake us, guide us until we proclaim Your faithfulness to all the generations to come.

Your power and righteousness reach the high heavens. You who have done great things God, who is like You?

Let our lips shout for joy, for You have rescued us. Let us sing our praises to You.

Hymn of Praise 86

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Though changes not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided-
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided-
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

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Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:6

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Hymn of Prayer 354

"Seek Ye First"

SEEK YE FIRST

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Meditation

In the days of Jesus, as now, it's possible to observe the prevailing standards of righteousness without ever being truly motivated by them. It's possible to pursue righteousness, 'the right way of living from God's point of view,' because you are seeking the reward of being respected by other people. To be well thought of can be more important to you than being rich. In order to get and hold public approval, a person can sacrifice personal integrity, or perhaps family, friends or even a close relationship with God. Incredible as it seems, some people pretend to serve God in order to please other people. -Clarence Jordan

Prayer of Confession

Allison & Kevin Gray

Living God, we know Jesus taught us the characteristics of the life You bless. In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes how we live right-side-up in this upside-down world. Most of the time, we pursue this path of blessedness by following The Way of Jesus. However, we confess to You what You already know; we also fall short of Your design for our living. Jesus teaches us, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

Yet, we can guard ourselves against humility. Building kingdoms of our own and participating in human-made kingdoms, we become puffed up with hubris and arrogance.

Jesus teaches us, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Yet, we often live as though we believe, 'Blessed are those untouched by grief or guilt.'

Jesus teaches us, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

However, we can live upside-down buying into the idea, 'Blessed are those who can purchase any pleasure, for they can do whatever makes them happy in the moment.'

Despite Jesus teaching us, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied,"

We can compromise Your ways for lesser commitments while living in confusion and denying our lack of spiritual fulfillment.

Although Jesus teaches us, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy,"

We catch ourselves displaying callousness to the situational needs of others while trying to legitimize our demand of an eye for an eye, holding grudges, bestowing shame and expressing prejudice.

Jesus teaches us, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Nonetheless, we can surprise ourselves by blessing hypocrites, liars and opportunists.

Jesus teaches us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Yet, we can be quick to anger protecting our myopic opinions while creating conflicts for selfish causes.

Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God."

However, as You know, we can build a reputation of doing good things to be praised, work diligently to be sure other people do not view us as a religious fanatic, and remain silent when we know people are working against Your ways of righteousness.

So, God of forgiveness, hear our confessions today. Please remove our guilt and shame. Redeem us. We fall short of Your will for us and need Your continual transformation. No matter our age or spiritual maturity, we still need to grow spiritually, so we can live the blessed life offered to us by Jesus, who taught us to pray, 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. 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.

Remember in Prayer

Andrew Adair, Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Mary Chilton (mother of Amy Chilton), Carol Drye, Don Furr, Camille Green, Polly Hull, Gene Poole, Elma Thomas, Paislee, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott), Barbara Ledford; Parker Jackson, military

Prayers and sympathy to the family of Robby Ray following the death of his father, Pete Dixon on July 1st. And to Libby Levie, as she and her family mourn the death of her cousin in Indiana.

Offertory

“Satisfied”
Noel Lance, piano

arr. Lloyd Larson

All my life I had a longing
For a drink from some clear spring,
That I hoped would quench the burning
Of the thirst I felt within.
Hallelujah! I have found Him Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings, thro’ His life I now am saved.

Feeding on the husks around me,
Till my strength was almost gone,
Longed my soul for something better,
Only still to hunger on.
Hallelujah! I have found Him Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings, thro’ His life I now am saved.

Well of water, ever springing,
Bread of life so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.
Hallelujah! I have found Him Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings, thro’ His life I now am saved.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Hymn 419

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand’ring.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us, is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion’s love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Message "Daily Bread Is Enough" Rev. Dennis Foust, Ph.D.

Introduction of New Members to St. John's

Song of Preparation "We Seek Your Face" Mark Candon

Heavenly Father
God of righteousness
We are hungry for Your holiness
Lord of mercy of amazing grace
We bow down to seek Your face
-repeat-

Sharing Communion

Song of Sending

Heavenly Father
God of righteousness
We go forth in your name to bless
Lord of mercy and amazing grace
Through our presence may they see Your face
-repeat-

Postlude "Trumpet Tune" Douglas Wagner

Today's worship leaders include Jeff & Betsy Almond; John Bragg; Allison Gray; Rev. Lee Gray, Minister for Congregational Care; Noel Lance, organist; Kevin Gray, Minister for Worship & Music; and Rev. Dennis Foust, Ph. D., Senior Minister.