

Sunday Worship

August 16, 2020

Order of Worship



Gathering

Mr. Ed Turner

Call to Worship

Jan & Scott Kerley

*I shall not be, I shall not be moved. I shall not be, I shall not be moved.
Just like a tree planted by the water, I shall not be moved.*

One: God blesses those who refuse evil advice, those who will not follow others as they veer off God's path of righteousness, into the dark.

All: **God delights in those who love the ways of peace, mercy and faithfulness, those who hunger after God's Spirit.**

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water, trees that yield fruit in season.

All: **God will lift these people up, and make them prosper not only for their sake, but for the betterment of the whole world.**

Hymn of Praise 4

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Verse 1, 3, & 4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see;
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sea;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty; God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayers of the Church

Rev. Lee Gray

The 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.

Remember in Prayer

Polly Hull, Gene & Carol Poole, Paislee, Alison Ziegmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott),

Barbara Ledford, Elizabeth Laney, Elma Thomas, Andrew Adair

Matthew 5:1-2, 10-12

“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 are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Hymn 683

O for a World

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice,
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Meditation

The Life of Jesus

What does the Lord require of us?

This is answered in the life of Jesus, who taught us through his words and actions that every one matters to God.

Jesus taught us not just through words, but through his actions, that every person matters to God.

Jesus went out into the world healing, feeding and caring for all those he came across. He was the living embodiment of God's righteousness and justice.

Jesus' spirit was God centered. Therefore, people sense God's Spirit in him, and were blessed.

On the other hand, some felt uncomfortable seeing how God's Spirit brought great joy to others. Those were the ones who sought to silence Jesus.

Because he refused to be silenced, to have God's message suppressed, Jesus was put to death.

But on the third day he was resurrected by God, proving once and for all that love, justice, mercy, and righteousness wins, not hate, oppression or self centeredness.

Every time we sing alleluia, we celebrate this victory. This is a victory Christ willingly shared with each and everyone of us.

So do not lose faith in the face of adversity and hate. Remember, Jesus said,

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

God is with us, and is making all things new.

Message Persecution: Evidence of the Blessed Life Rev. Dennis Foust, Ph.D.

Hymn of Response The Lord Has Spoken, We Have Heard NEW BRITAIN
Words by J.K. Gray

What does the Lord require of us to show our love and praise?
What sacrifice can we bring as we our voices raise?

The Lord has spoken, we have heard of what the Lord requires.
God shows the way through the living word, Christ's' Spirit doth inspire.

God ask that we do justly love and walk in righteous ways,
to show the world God's love and light, these are our prayers and praise.

When you are persecuted by a world that does not see,
Keep heart and faith for blessed are you, the kingdom of God is yours.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Postlude God of Grace Paul Manz
J Noel Lance, organist

St. John's Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina