

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, October 24, 2021 | The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Please silence all electronic devices.

In these moments, within this sacred space, prepare yourself to be present to the Presence.

God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in Spirit in truth. -John 4:24

Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Allison Benfield

ONE: Come, all of you, into the presence of the Lord,
**ALL: where the word of God speaks peace to those who are
worthy and to those who think they are not.**

ONE: Come, hear the word of the Lord, who opens to everyone the
wisdom of life.

ALL: May we be found faithful proclaiming the Gospel.

ONE: A gospel not proclaimed from human origin,

ALL: but from the heart of Christ, our healer and redeemer.

Prayer of Submission

Rev. Benfield

***Hymn of Praise**

The God of Abraham Praise

Chalice Hymnal No. 24, verse 1

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise. all praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;
the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!

Reading from the Epistle

Marc & Tallon Cardella

2 Corinthians 3:17-4:5

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

ONE: This is the written word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Song of Response

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

God's spirit flowing free, high surging where it will –
in prophet's word it spoke of old – is speaking still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

Moments with the Younger Church

Dr. Foust

Offertory Prayer

Jeff LeVie

Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, that I should boast,
Save the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compost so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

***Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Moment for Reflection

Nora Frances Benton

It is so difficult to listen to the Voice instead of the voices - the ones that rattle around in my own head, and the marketeers announcing, "Buy this! You need that! Come here, go there! Sell yourself."

How can I listen for that still small voice to find my own voice? Ah,
be still and know ... God is still... speaking. God is still *speaking* ...

-Kent Ira Groff

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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.

Prayer Concerns

Andrew Adair, Shirley Ballard, Katherine Barr, Carol Drye, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Jean Hutson, Barbara Ledford, Ashley Marin (granddaughter of the late Doris and Walt Tedder), Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Viorica Secere, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas

Sympathy to Mary Rickenbaker in the death of her grandson,
Eric Teitloff, last weekend

Please be in prayer for the Weekday School at this time as the father of two Weekday School students passed away on Tuesday

Solo
Give Me Jesus

J. Kevin Gray
TRADITIONAL

In the morning, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus.
You can have all this world,
but give me Jesus.

And when I come to sing, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world,
but give me Jesus.

And when I share good news, I'll give them Jesus.
Give them Jesus, give them Jesus.
I'll proclaim him to the world,
I proclaim Jesus.

Message

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

We Do Not Proclaim Ourselves

***Song of Discipleship**

Where God Leads Us

NORRIS

Where Christ Leads us, we will follow.
Where Christ Leads us, we will follow.
Where Christ Leads us, we will follow.
We'll go with Him, with Him, all the way

We'll proclaim his words of good news,
We'll proclaim his words of good news,
We'll proclaim his words of good news,
We'll proclaim him, proclaim him to the world.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

J. Noel Lance

Charlotte Pride has provided flowers for today as a gesture of gratitude and thanks to the congregation and staff of St. John's Baptist Church and in loving memory of all those in the local LGBTQ community who we have lost in the past year.
