

February 12, 2023

PRAYER LIVED



ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship

Revelation 5:14

Songs of Praise

There Is a Higher Throne

He Reigns

Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE

Confession of Sin

Psalm 32:3-5

Declaration of Grace

Psalm 32:1-2

Songs of Renewal & Gratitude

Lord of Eternity

Holy Spirit

SET APART BY GOD

Offering

Sermon

The Lord's Supper

Profession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

SENT BY GOD

Song of Response

Salvation Belongs to Our God

Blessing

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- Revelation 5:14 (English Standard Version)

SONGS

THERE IS A HIGHER THRONE

(Words and Music by Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty, 2002)

There is a higher throne than all this world has known;
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace: Salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing. Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies, their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks and honor are
To God, our King, who reigns on high, forever more.*

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye, as thirst and hunger die;
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King: we'll reign with Him.

SONGS

HE REIGNS

(Words and Music by Peter Furler and Steve Taylor, 2003)

It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain.
It's the song of the forgiven drowning out the Amazon rain.
The song of Asian believers filled with God's holy fire.
It's every tribe, every tongue, every nation;
A love song born of a grateful choir.

It's all God's children singing:

"Glory, glory, hallelujah! He reigns, He reigns."

It's all God's children singing:

"Glory, glory, hallelujah! He reigns, He reigns."

Let it rise above the four winds, caught up in the heavenly sound.
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals
To the faithful gathered underground.
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation, some were meant to persist.
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples, none rings truer than this:

And all the powers of darkness tremble at what they've just heard,
'Cause all the powers of darkness can't drown out a single word.

READINGS

CONFESSION OF SIN

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

- Psalm 32:3-5 (*English Standard Version*)

DECLARATION OF GRACE

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
²Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- Psalm 32:1-2 (*English Standard Version*)

SONGS

LORD OF ETERNITY

(Words and Music by Fernando Ortega and John Andrew Schreiner, 1998)

Blessed is the man who walks in Your favor.
Who loves all Your words, and hides them like treasure.
In the darkest place of his desp'rate heart.
They are a light, a strong, sure light.

Sometimes I call out Your name, but I cannot find You.
I look for Your face, but You are not there.
By my sorrows, Lord, lift me to You.
Lift me up to Your side.

*Lord of eternity, Father of mercy, look on my fainting soul.
Keeper of all the stars, friend of the poorest heart.
Touch me and make me whole.*

If You are my defender, who is against me?
No one can trouble or harm me, if you are my strength.
All I ask, all I desire, is to live in Your house all my days.

*Lord of eternity, God of all mercy. Come to my troubled soul.
Keeper of all the stars, friend of the poorest heart.
Touch me and make me whole.*

HOLY SPIRIT

(Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2006)

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace; breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

READINGS

SCRIPTURE

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

- John 17:20-26 (*English Standard Version*)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is the best reason you have heard for not believing? The challenge of evil and suffering? The evidence produced by science? There cannot be one true religion in the world. Freedom of choice. The record of how "Christians" have lived. The Bible is unreliable. God's anger and wrath.
- Who is the focus of Jesus' prayer? Toward what end? What kind of unity exists between God and Jesus that we should copy?
- How does this affect others? (See John 17:21, 23)
- What does Jesus' ultimate desire (John 17:24) reveal about his love for us?
- How do these words from John 17 motivate a life of dependent prayer?
- Reread John 17. What stands out to you the most as you have just read these words? What have you been touched by as you read?

SERMON OUTLINE

One

John 17:20-26

The life of Jesus Christ brings all disciples into the university of the trinity...

(John 17:20-23; Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

What is the nature of this university community?

It is a gloriously loved diversity (John 17:20-23; Revelation 7:9-12)

It is a gloriously loved unity (John 17:20-23; John 16:25-28)

— REFLECTION QUOTES —

Christian community means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. There is no Christian community that is more than this, and none that is less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily community of many years, Christian community is solely this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.

What does that mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others for the sake of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that from eternity we have been chosen in Jesus Christ, accepted in time, and united for eternity.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (p. 5)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (*English Standard Version*)

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

- Revelation 7:9-12 (*English Standard Version*)

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

- John 16:25-28 (*English Standard Version*)

READINGS

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Although not written by the apostles, the Apostle's Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* ("catholic" means "world-wide" in scope rather than regional or sectarian)

SONGS

SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD

(Words and Music by Adrian Howard and Pat Turner, 1985)

Salvation belongs to our God,
Who sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb;
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength

*Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever, amen!*

And we the redeemed shall be strong
In purpose and unity, declaring aloud;
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRONT PORCH DINER WITH ICC: Join our friends from ICC (Iranian Christian Church) for a Front Porch Diner today! We'll meet right after the service for food and fellowship.

VALLEY SPRINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL: Our weekday preschool program for 3's, 4's, and 5-year-olds. Registration for the 2023-24 school year opens tomorrow! See www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org or contact Danya Schulte: danya@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7670.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS: Everyone is invited for a shared meal each Wednesday night in February. Join us any Wednesday, at 6pm, in the Worship Room.

LENTEN SERVICES: Join us Wednesdays at noon for a special service as we prepare and anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and continues through Holy Week, in the Chapel.

MISSIONS AUCTION: Join us for a night of great food, great fellowship, and great fun(draising!) at the 2023 Missions Auction! Saturday, March 11th at 5pm. In addition to supporting our annual Mexico Mission trip, this year we are also raising funds to expand our local and global outreach, in partnership with Youth For Christ, Capital Community Athletics, Reformed University Fellowship, and Asocaviva (Guatemala well drilling). Childcare available, 3 years though Grade 5. Tickets: \$30 per person, available at valleysprings.org/auction.

For more information, visit www.valleysprings.org

OUR MISSION

Valley Springs Presbyterian Church is an intergenerational community of grace, learning to love God, and serve our world, together.

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