

**World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Gigue* *Bach*
 Nancy Warrington, clarinet

Welcome & Announcements


Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!
We will sing and make melody!
We will awaken the dawn!
We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
—based on Psalm 108:1-4

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

O LORD, God of Israel,
there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants
who walk before you with all their heart.
Blessed be the LORD,
who has given rest to his people Israel
according to all that he promised;
not one word has failed of all his good promise,
which he spoke through his servant Moses.
The LORD our God be with us,
as he was with our ancestors;
may he not leave us or abandon us,
but incline our hearts to him,
to walk in all his ways,
and to keep his commandments,
his statutes, and his ordinances,
which he commanded our ancestors.
—1 Kings 8:23, 56-58, NRSV

 **Praise Song** *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

Chorus
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.
Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.

Verse 1

*The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes*

Chorus

Verse 2

*You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find*

Chorus

Verse 3

*And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

Chorus

Ending

*Lord, I'll worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name*

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Dan Obenschain

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Dan Obenschain

For the times we have lied to one another
and the times we have been lied to,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have laughed at another's pain
and the times we have been laughed at,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent
and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have not respected another's freedom
to be different from us,

heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
For the times we have betrayed a friend
and the times we have been betrayed,
heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.
O God of heaven and earth,
you emptied yourself of your power
and became a helpless baby
in order that you might heal the sick world.
Teach us to empty ourselves of the things
that destroy us and keep us alone.
Empty us of our jealousy,
of our meanness,
of our fear of others.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dan Obenschain

When you were dead in trespasses
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
God made you alive together with Christ,
when he forgave us all our trespasses,
erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands.
He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. **Amen.**

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation How does God's love abide in anyone who has the
world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need
and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love,
not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

Offering

Offertory

*Great is the Lord
Flute & Clarinet Duet*

Smith

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

Prayer of Dedication

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise Song

Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

Verse 1

*What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand.*

Refrain

*O sing, hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing, hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

Verse 2

*What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good. God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?*

Refrain

Verse 3

*Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,*

*And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forever more.*

Refrain

*Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon

Christ in Me

Celia Weber

Scripture Reading

Galatians 2:11-21

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were deviating from the truth of the gospel, I told Cephas in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?"

¹⁵ We are Jews by birth and not "Gentile sinners," ¹⁶ and yet because we know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we ourselves have believed in Christ Jesus. This was so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no human being will be justified. ¹⁷ But if we ourselves are also found to be "sinners" while seeking to be justified by Christ, is Christ then a promoter of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild those things that I tore down, I show myself to be a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Sermon

"Freedom from the Law"
Rev. Tim Latham



Hymn 342

Just As I Am

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding

We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith *(Apostle's Creed)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 204 *Rock of Ages*

Benediction & Blessing

Postlude