
prelude

PAT DOLAN

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness – Johann Franck (1649) / Johann Cruger

Soul, adorn thyself with gladness, leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy thy praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous supper founded.
High o'er all the heavens He reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

Lord, by love and mercy driven thou hast left thy throne in heaven
On the cross for us to languish and to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness and to shed thy blood in sadness.

By this blood, redeemed and living, Lord, I praise thee with thanksgiving.

Sacred Ground – Jon Schmidt

preparing our hearts

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

– Mark 10:45 ESV

**** call to worship**

Leader: Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God!

All: **It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

All: **Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

Leader: For the LORD is good;

All: **His steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

– Psalm 100:2-5 ESV

** Please stand if you are able

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, Music: Folk Tune. Public Domain.

Leader: O Lord our God, who is always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them, and who is more willing to give more than we desire or deserve: help us to seek you that we may truly find you, to ask that we may joyfully receive, and to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

* Here, "catholic" means "universal," and refers to the Christian church in all places

O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus; vast, unmeasured, boundless free.
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love.
Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus; spread his praise from shore to shore.
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore.
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own.
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus; love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus; 'tis a heaven of heavens to me,
And it lifts me up to glory for it lifts me up to thee.

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, Music: Thomas J. Williams. Public Domain.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.

– Jeremiah 14:20-21 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Lord of everlasting covenant, have mercy on us.

We have broken our covenant with you and have turned our hearts from true worship and loving obedience. Instead, we have allied ourselves with false gods and have lived for their false promises. We live like we belong to this world, rather than to your kingdom.

Forgive us the sins that issue from our wayward hearts – sins against you and against our neighbor; for both by our actions and our attitudes, by what we have done and left undone, we have failed you and failed our neighbors.

But, we thank you, gracious God, that you grant our pardon because of Christ, who kept the covenant perfectly and for our sake. Grant that we would live in the service and peace of our True King, living as citizens of heaven from now until our feet are set there forever.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

– Isaiah 54:10 ESV

All: Thanks be to God.

JESUS! WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS

Jesus! What a friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole. *

**Chorus:*

Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my victory wins.*

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows over me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.*

Jesus! I do now receive him. More than all in him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.*

Words: John Wilbur Chapman, Music: Rowland Prichard. Public Domain.

Leader: Luke 14:25-33
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

** passing the peace

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3–K.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

Series | “Joshua: Promise. Faith. Courage.”

Sermon | “Our Clear and Impossible Choice”

September 2, 2018

Joshua 24:14-31 ^{ESV} | 14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the Lord.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. 26 And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.” 28 So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

29 After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being 110 years old. 30 And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

31 Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

1. The clear choice:
2. The impossible choice:
3. How to live with the choice:

**** the gospel charge**

Leader: In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

All: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymns.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

– Mark 14:22-24^{ESV}

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Hear us then, as we pray.

All: Father, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his willing obedience and suffering during his life on earth, and for his sacrifice of his body and blood on the cross. As we partake of these, your gifts of the bread and the cup, give us assurance that we are made whole by his body and our sins are pardoned through his blood. Fill our minds with your peace and turn our eyes to heaven, where Christ is at your right hand interceding for us. Enable us to offer up ourselves in service to Christ and unite us with each other through your Spirit so that we may continue in the living hope of our Savior’s coming in glory. Hear us now through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

HOW SWEET AND AWESOME IS THE PLACE

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue, “Lord, why was I a guest?

“Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there’s room,
When thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;
Send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race
May, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

Words: Isaac Watts, Music: Old Irish hymn melody. Public Domain.

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Words: John Newton, last verse unknown; Music: American folk tune. Public Domain.

GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt;
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. *

** Chorus:*

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that will pardon and cleanse within.

Grace, grace, God's grace; grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross! *

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace; freely bestowed on all who believe.

You that are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive? *

Words: Julia Johnston; Music: Daniel Towner. Public Domain.

announcements

Please note the announcements found on Pages 16-20 of your bulletin.

**** benediction**