
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.

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts – Claude Bass

Christ By Heavenly Hosts Adored – Jakob Hintze/Robert Lind

Christ, by heavenly hosts adored; gracious, mighty, sovereign Lord,
God of nations, King of kings, Head of all created things,
By the Church with joy confessed, God the Son forever blessed,
Pleading at your throne we stand, save your people, bless our land.

Give us rulers faithful, true, such as love and honor you;
Let the powers you ordained be in righteousness maintained.
In the people's hearts increase love of piety and peace.
Thus united, we shall stand one wide, free, and happy land.

preparing our hearts

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

– Psalm 34:3-5_{ESV}

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
All: **To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
All: **For you, O LORD, have made us glad by your work;**

Leader: At the works of your hands I sing for joy.

— From Psalm 92:1–4_{ESV}

**** hymn**

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE GOD ONLY WISE

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith; Music: Traditional Welsh Melody; harm. John Roberts. Public Domain.

****prayer of invocation**

Leader: You have commanded that we believe in Jesus, and we would flee to no other refuge, wash in no other fountain, build on no other foundation, receive from no other fullness, and rest in no other relief. Draw near to us as we draw near to you, for you are our hope and delight, for Jesus' sake and in the power of your Spirit, we pray, Amen.

– Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*, “Jesus My Glory”

**** affirmation of faith**

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

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all – here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid – here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death – this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home – here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

* *Tag*: Here in the power of Christ alone.

“In Christ Alone,” Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend.
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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

– 1 John 1:8-9^{ESV}

All: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
God of everlasting love,
We confess that we have been unfaithful
To our covenant with you and with one another;
We have worshipped other gods: money, power, pleasure, convenience.
We have served our own self-interests
Instead of serving only you and your people.
We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,
Nor have we rightly loved ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant
With you and with one another.
Through Christ our Lord.

– Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

– Isaiah 1:18^{ESV}

All: **Thanks be to God, who cleanses us by the blood of the Lamb.**

ALL MUST BE WELL

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
Free and changeless is his favor, all is well
Precious is the blood that healed us, perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us, all must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well
Ours is such a full salvation, all is well
Happy still in God confiding, fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding, all must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well
[On our Father's love relying, Jesus every need supplying
Yes, in living or in dying, all must be well] [*repeat*]

"All Must Be Well," Words: Mary Bowley Peters, Matthew S. Smith, Music: Matthew S. Smith.
© detuned radio music. CCLI #3022711, Song #5617634.

Leader: Genesis 50:15-21
1 Peter 3:8-12
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 | “Romans, Part Four: Why We Serve”

Sermon | “Loving the Hard to Love”

September 30, 2018

Romans 12:14-21 ESV | 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

1. **Bless Those Who Persecute You**
2. **Repay No Evil for Evil**
3. **Overcome Evil With Good**

**** the gospel charge**

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

All: But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

– Luke 6:35-36_{ESV}

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.

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.

During the celebration of communion, while the music plays, please reflect on your understanding of and readiness for the Lord’s Table.

MY HEART IS FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness, and clothed me with his light,
And wrote His law of righteousness with power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough for every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him.

“My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness,” Words and Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty,
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announcements

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

**** benediction**