



April 15, 2018

REFLECTIONS

To go to heaven fully to enjoy God is *infinitely* better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
North American preacher and theologian
The Christian Pilgrim

How long until the burden is lifted?
How long is this the song that we sing?
How long until the reckoning?
And I know that I don't know what I'm asking
But I long to look you full in the face
I am ready for the reckoning.

Andrew Peterson
Contemporary North American folk artist
"The Reckoning"

GATHERING

10,000 Reasons

Call to Worship

from Psalm 147, NIV

Leader: *Praise the LORD.*

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

All: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Leader: *Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.*

All: The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Leader: *Sing to the LORD with grateful praise.*

This Is My Father's World

Prayer of Adoration (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

All: 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 and ever. Amen.

From the Depths of Woe

Prayer of Confession

based on The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent; for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in Your will, walk in Your ways, and put our hope in You alone during times of sorrow, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement

Titus 3:4-5a, 7, NIV

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy . . . so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Joy to the World

Prayer for Christ's Church and the World

Psalm 145:18, NIV

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

The Passing of the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Children's Worship:

Parents who wish may send children in K5-3rd Grade to meet their leaders in the Lobby.

Worship through Giving

Deuteronomy 16:17, NIV

Hallelujah! What a Savior

THE WORD

Scripture Reading

I Thessalonians 4:13-18, NIV

Reader: Jim Wert, Ruling Elder

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. ¹⁵According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage each other with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dr. Jimmy Agan

Good, Better, Best: Experiencing God's Love in Grief and Hope

COMMUNION

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 57

Q: How does believing in the resurrection of the body comfort you?

A: Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

SENDING

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Benediction

Colossians 1:18, NIV

Loving our community to life by pursuing gospel restoration