



July 8, 2018

REFLECTIONS

But God does not neglect his lost creature. He plans to re-create his image in man, to recover his first delight in his handiwork. He is seeking in it his own image so that he may love it. But there is only one way to achieve this purpose and that is for God, out of sheer mercy, to assume the image and form of fallen man. But this restoration of the divine image concerns not just a part, but the whole image of divine nature. It is not enough for man to simply recover right ideas about God, or to obey his will in the isolated actions of his life. No, man must be re-fashioned as a living whole in the image of God. His whole form, body, soul and spirit, must once more bear that image on earth. Such is God's purpose and destiny for man. His good pleasure can rest only on his perfected image.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
German pastor, theologian and martyr
The Cost of Discipleship

Anyone can take a picture of poverty; it's easy to focus on the dirt and hurt of the poor. It's much harder—and much more needful—to pry under that dirt and reveal the beauty and dignity of people that, but for their birth into a place and circumstance different from our own, are just like ourselves. I want my images to tell the story of those people and to move us beyond pity to justice and mercy.

David duChemin,
Contemporary photographer, author, speaker
Within the Frame: The Journey of Photographic Vision

So even as we see the horror of death, may we be reminded that in the end, love wins. Mercy triumphs. Life is more powerful than death. And even those who have committed great violence can have the image of God come to life again within them as they hear the whisper of love. May the whisper of love grow louder than the thunder of violence. May we love loudly.

Shane Claiborne
Contemporary North American Christian activist and author
Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals

GATHERING

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Call to Worship

based on I Peter 1:3-4

Leader: *Come, let us bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Who, according to his great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, to an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us.*

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

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.

Sing to Jesus

Prayer of Confession

All: God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement

II Corinthians 5:17, 21, NIV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heal Us, Emmanuel

Prayer for Christ's Church and the World

Luke 6:27-28, NIV

But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

The Passing of the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Worship through Giving

Jeremiah 9:23-24

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:5-10, ESV

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Dr. Jimmy Agan

Rebuilding the Ruins: Made in the Image of a Redeeming God

COMMUNION

Confession of Faith

I Timothy 3:16, NIV

All: Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:
He appeared in a body,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
was taken up in glory.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

SENDING

Lift High the Name of Jesus

Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21, NIV

Loving our community to life by pursuing gospel restoration