

Tuesday Devotional

September 7, 2021

“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

– Ephesians 1:3–6

Last week we finished up our series on the Sermon on the Mount. Today we begin a new series that will run through the end of the year, Lord willing. On Tuesdays we will be looking at the question, “Why do we do what we do?” We will begin by looking at the order of worship that we have each Sunday. Thursday’s devotionals will be a word of encouragement. Looking at passages in the Bible to encourage our souls.

The first “Why do we do what we do?” question we ask has to do with our order of worship here at Shiloh ARP Church. We begin our service with what is called a **Prelude**. What is a Prelude? A Prelude is a musical number played before worship begins, as people enter the sanctuary. Most commonly in our tradition it is played on the organ or the piano. The type of music most often played are spiritual songs, hymns, or Psalms.

Why do we include a Prelude into our worship service? Before I understood the purpose of the prelude, I just thought it was a nice piece of music being played to announce we are about to start worship. This is one of the purposes behind the prelude. However, the original purpose is to help the worshipper prepare for worship. This is a biblical idea that we see in the worship of the Israelites. Several passages point to preparation in worship. Preparing our hearts and minds for what we are about to do. Not coming flippantly or without thought. Worship is what we were created to do and called to do as Christians. We must, therefore, prepare and come with hearts and minds that are properly prepared for worship. The prelude is one tool that have at Shiloh to help us in this task.

How can we apply this understanding of the Prelude to our worship this week? First, I would encourage you to think about preparing your own hearts and minds for worship. Use the time of the prelude to pray and read scripture. In our bulletin we often include a short passage of scripture that is at the top of the page titled, “silent prayer and meditation.” This passage is placed there to help you as we all prepare to come into the exalted and majestic presence of God in worship. God cares how we come to him in worship. Are you coming to the Lord prepared to worship him as the corporate body of Christ? Here are a few passages I use to prepare my own heart and mind for worship: Psalm 122:1; Acts 2:42; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:19-25