



The Lord's Day in Worship

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ascension Sunday
May 24, 2020

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

When he had left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is seen for who he is, and God seen for who he is in him. The moment God is seen in him, God’s glory will be on display. In glorifying him, he himself is glorified—glory all around. “Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I’m telling you: ‘Where I go, you are not able to come.’ “Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”

—John 13:31-35 from The Message paraphrase

The mutually-lived out heart love of Christians for one another will be the single greatest missionary force in the world. The power for disciples' love for one another does not come from the disciples themselves; it comes from the preceding love of Christ for them, a love they already know and experience. Disciples of Jesus, by definition, already have within them the resource for keeping Jesus' love command—namely Jesus' preceding and continuing love for them.

—Frederick Dale Bruner

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Fountain

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Molly Stone

Psalm 41:1–13

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

²the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;

he is called blessed in the land;

you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

³The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;

in his illness you restore him to full health.

⁴As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;

heal me, for I have sinned against you!”

⁵My enemies say of me in malice,

“When will he die, and his name perish?”

⁶And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,

while his heart gathers iniquity;

when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

⁷All who hate me whisper together about me;

they imagine the worst for me.

⁸They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him;

he will not rise again from where he lies.”

⁹Even my close friend in whom I trusted,

who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

¹⁰But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,

and raise me up, that I may repay them!

¹¹By this I know that you delight in me:

my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

¹²But you have upheld me because of my integrity,

and set me in your presence forever.

¹³Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

from everlasting to everlasting!

Amen and Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF LOVE

“Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Oh 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.

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus,
‘Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me,
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore.
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1834-1925. Music: trad. Gaelic melody; arr. by Audrey Assad.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
 O Lord, who could stand?
 But with you there is forgiveness;
 therefore you are feared.
 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
 and in his word I put my hope.
 My soul waits for the Lord
 more than the watchmen wait for the morning,
 more than the watchmen wait for the morning.
 Almighty God, our Redeemer,
 in our weakness we have failed
 to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
 Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
 that we may follow your commands
 and proclaim your reign of love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. Amen.*

—based on Psalm 130:3-6

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

—1 John 2:1

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you forgiveness of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of His Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF SALVATION

“Hallelujah! What a Savior”

“Man of Sorrows!” what a name,
For the Son of God, who came;
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood:
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Chorus:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
(Repeat)

Lifted up was he to die,
“It is finished!” was His cry;
Now in heav’n exalted high,
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
(Chorus)

When He comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring;
Then anew this song we’ll sing,
Hallelujah, what a Savior!
(Chorus)

Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1875, alt. Refrain: Shelly Moore, 2008. CCLI 7020114.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GIVING OF FIRST FRUITS

Dan Edwards

"By Our Love"

Rachel Barlotta, soloist

Brothers, let us come together
Walking in the Spirit, there's much to be done...
We will come reaching, out from our comforts
And they will know us by our love...

Sisters, we were made for kindness
We can pierce the darkness as He shines through us...
We will come reaching, with a song of healing...
And they will know us by our love!

The time is now
Come Church arise...
Love with His hands
See with His eyes...
Bind it around you,
Let it never leave you,
And they will know us by our love...

Children, You are hope for justice,
Stand firm in the Truth now, set your hearts above
You will be reaching, long after we're gone,
And they will know you by your love!

Words and Music: Christy Nockels. CCLI 5489329.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**THE MORNING PRAYERS**

David O'Dell

John 13:18–38

I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

²¹After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus’ side,²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?”²⁶Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor.³⁰So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”³⁶Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you

cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

All flesh is like grass,

And all its glory is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

MESSAGE

"A NEW COMMANDMENT"

David Driskill

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying:

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, Amen.

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP

“Oh How Good It Is”

Oh how good it is When the family of God
 Dwells together in spirit, In faith and unity.
 Where the bonds of peace, Of acceptance and love
 Are the fruit of His presence Here among us.

Chorus:

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
 And with one heart we'll live out His word,
 Till the whole earth sees
 The Redeemer has come,
 For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is, On this journey we share,
 To rejoice with the happy And weep with those who mourn.
 For the weak find strength, The afflicted find grace
 When we offer the blessing Of belonging.

Oh how good it is To embrace His command,
 To prefer one another, Forgive as He forgives.
 When we live as one We all share in the love
 Of the Son, with the Father, And the Spirit.
 (Chorus)

Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty. CCLI 6399212.

BENEDICTION

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RULING ELDERS

2020

Bill Bennett
 Will Brooke
 Michael Latta
 Charlie Logan
 Paul Loyless
 Bob Schaffeld
 Lee Sheppard
 Steve Stigler
 Mark Taylor
 John Wood

2021

Eric Getty
 Russell Martin
 Daniel Murray
 Warren Norville
 Sandy Stradtman
 Clay Wheeler

2022

Ty Dedmon
 John Hamilton
 Mark Hogewood
 John James
 David O'Dell
 Norman Pless
 Kurt Senn

DEACONS

2020

Tripp Alexander
 Paul Darden
 Jay Evans
 Bryan Flores
 John Gant
 John David Gray
 Marty Martin
 Bud Miller
 Tyler O'Connor
 John Shults
 Danny Smith
 Robert Stephens
 Clark Worrell

2021

Nick Baggett
 Ward Bailey
 Samuel Bragg
 Trey Clegg
 Will Graham
 Jeff Hicks
 Jim Jenkins
 Alan Spooner
 Patrick Strong

2022

Jim Bennett
 William Edwards
 Merrill Johnston
 Randall Lancaster
 Mark Midyette
 Stephen Mince
 Clyde Prather
 John Shank
 Matt Thomas
 Greg Tomlinson

BIBLE READING PLAN

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers, and hymns. The scripture readings are from Ligonier Ministries and are designed around a one-year cycle that will allow you to read through the New Testament or the entire Bible in 2020.

MAY READING PLAN

	2 SAMUEL	LUKE
1	□ 23-24	□ 22:31-53
	1 KINGS	
2/3	□ 1-5	□ 22:54-23:26
4	□ 6-7	□ 23:27-28
5	□ 8-9	□ 23:39-56
6	□ 10-11	□ 24:1-35
7	□ 12-13	□ 24:36-53
		JOHN
8	□ 14-15	□ 1:1-28
9/10	□ 16-20	□ 1:29-2:25
11	□ 21-22	□ 3:1-21
	2 KINGS	
12	□ 1-3	□ 3:22-36
13	□ 4-5	□ 4:1-30
14	□ 6-8	□ 4:31-54
15	□ 9-11	□ 5:1-23
16/17	□ 12-17	□ 5:24-6:21
18	□ 18-19	□ 6:22-44
19	□ 20-22	□ 6:45-71
20	□ 23-25	□ 7:1-31
	1 CHRONICLES	
21	□ 1-2	□ 7:32-52
22	□ 3-5	□ 7:53-8:30
23/24	□ 6-11	□ 8:31-9:41
25	□ 12-14	□ 10:1-21
26	□ 15-17	□ 10:22-42
27	□ 18-20	□ 11:1-27
28	□ 21-23	□ 11:28-44
29	□ 24-26	□ 11:45-57
30/31	□ 27-2 Chronicles 3	□ 12