



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come— this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: *He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: *He has given us new life and hope.*

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

People: *He has brought us out of darkness.*

He has made us light to the world.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: *He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

—based on 1 Peter 1.3-5

Opening Hymn | I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Words by Philip Bliss (1876), music by Luke Morton (2005)

*I will sing of my Redeemer, and his wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross he suffered, from the curse to set me free.*

*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer! With his blood, he purchased me.
On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt, and made me free.*

*I will sing of my Redeemer, his triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory he giveth over sin, and death and hell.*

*I will sing of my Redeemer, and his heav'nly love to me;
He from death to life has brought me, Son of God with him to be.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People: *Amen.*

All Singing: *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: *The Name of the Lord be praised!*

Hymn of Worship | O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Words by Samuel Trevor Francis; Music by Thomas John Williams, 1890

*O 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.*

*O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.*

*O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Love of ev'ry love the best:
Tis an ocean vast of blessing, tis a haven sweet of rest.
O 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.*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the way of the world
and failed to give him glory.
Forgive us and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy,
out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come he might show
the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—Ephesians 2.4-7

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

New Testament Reading | 1 Peter 2:19–25

[19] For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. [20] For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. [21] For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. [22] He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. [23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. [24] He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. [25] For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Hymn of Worship | He Came Down

A traditional song from Cameroon, transcribed by John L. Bell (1986)

*He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;*

*He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

*He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
He came down that we may have life;
Hallelujah forevermore!*

Psalm | Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: *He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

Leader: He leads me beside still waters.

People: *He restores my soul.*

Leader: He leads me in paths of righteousness

People: *For his name's sake.*

Leader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

People: *I will fear no evil,*

Leader: For you are with me;

People: *Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Leader: You prepare a table before me

People: *In the presence of my enemies;*

Leader: You anoint my head with oil;

People: *My cup overflows.*

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

People: *All the days of my life,*

Leader: And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

People: *Forever.*

Ministry of the Word | The Reason He Came

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | John 10:1–10

[1] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. [2] But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. [3] To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. [5] A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” [6] This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

[7] So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. [8] All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. [9] I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

*By his resurrection he has overcome death
so that he might make us share in the righteousness
he won for us by his death.*

*By his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.
Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.*

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A45

Prayers of the People, Concluded with the Lord's Prayer

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Holy Communion

For those watching at home, I encourage you to take this time to watch and pray with us. Remembering this all along: Jesus is not more present with us who are gathered than he is with you at home! The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of his blessing to us, and a great gift, but it does not mean you are missing out on his presence or his blessing. We all participate by faith in Christ, whether physically receiving the Supper or not.

Remember what the Shorter Catechism says:

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Leader: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God!

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

Leader: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

People: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!*

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Leader: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Feast

Communion Hymn | Dearly We're Bought

Words by Joseph Hart (1712-1768), music by Matthew S. Welch (2004)

*Come raise your thankful voice,
Ye souls redeemed with blood;
Leave earth and all its toys,
And mix no more with mud.*

*Dearly we're bought, highly esteemed;
Redeemed, with Jesus' blood redeemed
Dearly we're bought, highly esteemed;
Redeemed, with Jesus' blood redeemed.*

*With heart, and soul, and mind,
Exalt redeeming love;
Leave worldly cares behind,
And set your minds above.*

*Lift up your ravished eyes,
And view the glory given;
All lower things despised,
Ye citizens of heaven.*

*Be to this world as dead,
Alive to that to come;
Our life in Christ is hid,
Who soon shall call us home.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Words by Samuel Sennett, 1787; music by Christopher Miner, 1997

*On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.*

*All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.*

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land;
I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for promised land.*

*No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.*

*When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest?*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.

May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.

May you pass with Christ from death to life.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.

May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing
so that you may abound in hope.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Leader: Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
bless you now and forever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

Announcements

Small Group Meetings:

Small groups are an important part of our ministry at Redeemer. They offer opportunities to deepen relationships and to love, serve, and pray for one another and our city. If you are interested in joining a group, please email Ben Wheeler: ben@redeemertyler.com.

Monthly Youth Meeting:

All junior high and high school students are invited to join us on the third Sunday of the month for a time of fellowship, dinner, and Bible Study.

Bible and Book Studies:

- Men's study meets over breakfast, 7:00 am on Fridays. Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972).
- Women's Bible study meets 11:00 am on Friday mornings. They are finishing a study in Philippians and will begin Galatians on May 15th.
- Women's book study is reading one book per month and then discussing it on first Fridays in place of the weekly Bible study. They will be discussing *You Are What you Love* on May 8th. The book for June is *When Helping Hurts*.

Alpha Meals

Our second round of Alpha is wrapping up in the next two weeks. We have been meeting via Zoom, but for the next two weeks we will be meeting at the Forehand's home. We need someone to bring dinner for us on those nights. Please email Ben if you wish to sign up.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: our pastor and elders (Ben, Robert, John, & JB):

- Monday
Spiritual health and protection, relationships with spouse and children
- Tuesday
Integrity, emotional strength, communication skill
- Wednesday
Faith, finances, friendships
- Thursday
For their spouses (Rachel, Debbie, Brenda, & Allison), vision, and unity
- Friday
Passion for ministry, Sabbath rest, discernment
- Saturday
Perspective, faith, contentment.