



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: *His steadfast love endures forever.*

Leader: In our anguish we cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting us free.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: *His steadfast love endures forever.*

Leader: The LORD is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: *His steadfast love endures forever.*

Leader: We will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People: *His steadfast love endures forever.*

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

People: *The LORD has done this; and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

Leader: This is the day the LORD has made;

People: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

—from Psalm 118.1, 5, 14, 17, 22-24

Opening Hymn | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Words by Henry Van Dyke, 1907; Music by Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.*

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,

*Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

All Singing: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

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

Hymn of Worship | Fairest Lord Jesus

Anonymous

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where
we are prisoners of ourselves.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: To all and to each,
on his community and on his friends,
where regret is real,
Jesus pronounces his pardon
and grants us the right to begin again.

People: *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

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 3.13-22

[13] Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? [14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, [19] in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, [20] because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. [21] Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Hymn of Worship | How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Words and music by John Newton (1774)

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds, in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.
Dear Name, the rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place,
My never failing treasury, filled With boundless stores of grace!*

*Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.*

*Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
But when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.*

*Till then I would thy love proclaim, with ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of thy Name, refresh my soul in death.*

Psalm | Psalm 66.7-18

Leader: Rejoice in Him who rules by his might forever,

People: *Whose eyes keep watch on the nations—*

Leader: Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

People: *Bless our God, O peoples;*

Leader: Let the sound of his praise be heard,

People: *Who has kept our soul among the living*

Leader: And has not let our feet slip.

People: *For you, O God, have tested us;*

Leader: You have tried us as silver is tried.

People: *You brought us into the net;*

Leader: You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

People: *You let men ride over our heads;*

Leader: We went through fire and through water;

People: *Yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.*

Leader: I will come into your house with burnt offerings;

People: *I will perform my vows to you,*

Leader: That which my lips uttered

People: *And my mouth promised when I was in trouble.*

Leader: I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,

People: *With the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;*

Leader: I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

People: *Come and hear, all you who fear God,*

Leader: And I will tell what he has done for my soul.

People: *I cried to him with my mouth,*

Leader: And high praise was on my tongue.

People: *If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,*

Leader: The Lord would not have listened.

Ministry of the Word | Love and Spirit and Life

Rev. Benjamin Wheeler

Sermon Text | John 14:15-21

[15] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

[18] "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

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. Remember 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.)

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 | Jesus Paid It All

Words by Elvina M. Hall (1865)

*I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me, thine all in all."*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*Lord, now indeed I find, Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.*

*For nothing good have I, where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white, in the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.*

*And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.*

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | The Sands of Time are Sinking

Words by Anne Cousin (1857), based on Letters of Samuel Rutherford. Traditional Folk Tune, Arranged by Philip Palmertree (2001)

*The sands of time are sinking, The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for — The fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark had been the midnight, But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth In Emmanuel's land.*

*The king there in His beauty, Without a veil is seen:
It were a well-spent journey, Though seven deaths lay between:
The Lamb with His fair army, Doth on Mount Zion stand,
And glory, glory dwelleth In Emmanuel's land*

O Christ, He is the fountain, The deep, sweet well of love!

*The streams on earth I've tasted, More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness, His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth In Emmanuel's land.*

*The bride eyes not her garment, But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory, But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth, But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory Of Emmanuel's land.*

*O, I am my Beloved's, And my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner, Into His house of wine
I stand upon His merit — I know no other stand,
Not e'en where glory dwelleth In Emmanuel's land.*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: May the God of peace, who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep,
make us ready to do his will in every good thing,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: *Alleluia! Amen.*

—based on Hebrews 13.20-21

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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 (Galatians) meets 11:00 am on Friday mornings.
- 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 *When Helping Hurts* by Fikkert and Corbett on June 5th. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information on either of these women's groups.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic of the Week: global and local missions

- Monday
Richey and Keli Goodrich (Sydney, Australia): for Richey's preaching and teaching; for the Spirit to draw to Christ many of the unreached Malay people living in and outside of Australia.
- Tuesday
Robert and Debbie Hale: translation work in French-speaking Africa.
- Wednesday
Nate Hill, John Tyler High School Young Life; Mentoring Alliance (includes The Gospel Village, Rose City Summer Camps, and The Boys and Girls Club).
- Thursday
Rev. Robbie Mills, Pastor of New City Fellowship, a church working among immigrants in East Dallas. Rev. Jahaziel Cantu, Pastor of El Buen Pastor, a Hispanic church plant in North Dallas/Richardson. Rev. Caleb Dunn at Cristo Rey PCA, a Hispanic church in Central/West Dallas.
- Friday
Promise Academy's financial and prayer support; Highway 80 Rescue Mission and their work to build a residential facility here in Tyler; PATH, Crisis Pregnancy Center, other ministries in town.
- Saturday
True unity among the churches in our city founded upon the work of Christ! And that we will manifest this unity in acts of kindness and gospel proclamation.