



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

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.

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;
approach our God, who is full of mercy.

People: *We will praise God with all our heart
and glorify the name of the Most High forever.*

Opening Hymn | When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Words by Isaac Watts, 1707, Music by Lowell Mason, 1824

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 | How Deep The Father's Love for Us

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, 1995

*How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only son, to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turned his face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen one, bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom!*

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: *God of compassion,
in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners
but welcomed them with love.
Look upon us in mercy, we pray.
Our sins are more than we can bear;
our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting.
Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo;
free us from a past we cannot change;
heal what we can no longer fix.
Grace our lives with your love and turn the tears of our past
into the joys of new life with you. Amen.*

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

—based on 2 Corinthians 5.17-18

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.

Gospel Reading | John 3.14-21

[14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

[16] "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19] And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. [20] For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. [21] But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Hymn of Worship | Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)

Words by Sandra McCracken; Music by Kevin Twit, 2005

Rock of Ages, when the day seems long from this labor and this heartache, I have come.

The skies will wear out, but you remain the same, Rock of Ages, I praise your name.

Rock of Ages, you have brought me near, You have poured out your life-blood, your love, your tears,

To make this stone heart come alive again, Rock of Ages, forgive my sin.

Rock of Ages, Rock of Ages!

Bind your children until the kingdom comes.

Rock of Ages, your will be done.

Rock of Ages, when in want or rest, my desperate need for such a Savior I confess;

Pull these idols out from my heart's embrace. Rock of Ages, I need your grace.

Rock of Ages, broken scorned for me. Who am I that you would die to make me free?

To give me glory, you took the death and pain. Rock of Ages, my Offering.

Rock of Ages, "It is done!" you cried. The curtain's torn and I see justice satisfied.

Now write your mercy, on my heart and hands. Rock of ages, in faith I stand.

Rock of Ages, my great hope secure. Your promise holds just like an anchor to my soul.

Bind your children with cords of love and grace. Rock of Ages, we give you praise.

Psalm | Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

People: *For his steadfast love endures forever!*

Leader: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

People: *Whom he has redeemed from trouble*

Leader: And gathered in from the lands,

People: *From the east and from the west,*

Leader: From the north and from the south.

People: *Some were fools through their sinful ways,*

Leader: And because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

People: *They loathed any kind of food,*

Leader: And they drew near to the gates of death.

People: *Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,*

Leader: And he delivered them from their distress.

People: *He sent out his word and healed them,*

Leader: And delivered them from their destruction.

People: *Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,*

Leader: For his wondrous works to the children of man!

People: *And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,*

Leader: And tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Ministry of the Word | Christ, The Greater Sacrifice

Rev. John Bryant Willbanks

Sermon Text | Hebrews 10:1–18

[1] For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. [2] Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? [3] But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. [4] For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

[5] Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

[6] in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

[7] Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

[8] When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), [9] then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. [10] And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

[11] And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, [13] waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. [14] For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

[15] And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

[16] "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,"

[17] then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

[18] Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

*I believe that God,
because of Christ's atonement,
will never hold against me
any of my sins
nor my sinful nature,
which I need to struggle against all my life.
Rather, in his grace
God grants me the righteousness of Christ
to free me forever from judgment.*

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A56

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.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 | Nothing But the Blood

Words by Robert Lowry (1876)

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*For my pardon this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*Nothing can for sin atone:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

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 Ill 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
 himself sanctify you entirely;
 and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound
 and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: *Amen!*

—1 Thessalonians 5.23

CCLI # 11299454

Announcements

Alpha:

Alpha meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at 2820 Oak Knob.

- *Alpha begins with prayer.* Please be in prayer about those who have been invited to Alpha, that people will respond favorably to the invitations, and that God will be at work in Alpha. Pray we will see the opportunities before us.
- If you want to be involved, we need people to bring food each week. A link to the sign up sheet is in the Redeemer Weekly email.
- If you plan to attend, or have a guest you have invited, please let Ben know! We want to have plenty of food available.

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. They are studying the gospel of Luke. Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972).
- The women's group is studying the gospel of Matthew on Friday mornings. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: our church and mission

- Monday
That God would prepare us to be his ambassadors, welcoming to those who visit and reaching out to friends and neighbors and those in need; for healthy marriages and families.
- Tuesday
For authentic community, healthy small groups, deep friendships.
- Wednesday
That we would grow in prayer; for God to bless our corporate worship.
- Thursday
Physical and material needs of the body; that we would see opportunities to love and serve the destitute, ill, imprisoned, orphaned, and widowed.
- Friday
Passion for ministry; Sabbath rest; discernment.
- Saturday
Perspective, faith, contentment.