

The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 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.

Opening Prayer

Greeting and Call To Worship

Leader: Our hearts are ready, O Lord,

Our hearts are ready!

People: We will sing and make melody!

We will awaken the dawn!

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,

We will sing praises to you among the nations.

People: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,

And your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

- based on Psalm 108.1-4

Opening Hymn | O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Words by Charles Wesley (1739), music by Carl Glaser (1784-1829)

O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of reigning sin, he sets the pris'ner free; his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

He speaks and, list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen'd tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 | We Come, O Christ, to You

Words by E. Margaret Clarkson, 1957; music by John Darwall, 1770

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man, By whom all things consist, in whom all life began. In you alone we live and move and have our being in your love.

You are the way to God, your blood our ransom paid; In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid. Before the throne absolved we stand; your love has met your law's demand.

You are the living truth; all wisdom dwells in you, The source of every skill, the one eternal True! O great I AM In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true life; to know you is to live The more abundant life that earth can never give. O risen Lord! we live in you: in us each day your life renew!

We worship you, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King; To you our youth and strength adoringly we bring: So fill our hearts that all may view your life in us and turn to you!

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

People: Awesome and compassionate God,

you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,

but we have not loved you.

You constantly call us, but we do not listen.

You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,

wrapped in our own concerns.

We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,

we repent in spirit and in truth,

admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness

through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you, you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud,

and your sins like mist;

return to me, for I have redeemed you.

People: Thanks be to God!

-Isaiah 44.21-22

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 | Romans 14.1-12

[1] As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. [2] One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. [3] Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

[5] One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. [6] The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. [7] For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. [8] For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; [11] for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

[12] So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Hymn of Worship | Before the Throne of God Above

Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft, 1860; Music by Vikki Cook, 1997

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea: A great High Priest, whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me. My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart; I know that while in heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within, Upward I look, and see Him there, who made an end of all my sin. Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free; For God the just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness, The great unchangeable I am, the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood

My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God

With Christ, my Savior and my God!

Psalm | Psalm 114

Leader: When Israel went out from Egypt,

People: The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

Leader: Judah became his sanctuary,

People: Israel his dominion.

Leader: The sea looked and fled;

People: *Jordan turned back.*

Leader: The mountains skipped like rams,

People: The hills like lambs.

Leader: What ails you, O sea, that you flee?

People: O Jordan, that you turn back?

Leader: O mountains, that you skip like rams?

People: O hills, like lambs?

Leader: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

People: At the presence of the God of Jacob,

Leader: Who turns the rock into a pool of water,

People: The flint into a spring of water.

Sermon Text | Exodus 11

[1] The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. [2] Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry." [3] And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

[4] So Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, [5] and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. [6] There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. [7] But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' [8] And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. [9] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

[10] Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him. Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A1

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, 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 | 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.

Concluding Prayer

One More Hymn and the Offering | Lift Your Eyes Up

Words and music by Mona Reeves, Paul Zach, Brendan Jamieson, Orlando Palmer and Philip Zach (2018)

There is a power, stronger than evil, Wider than sorrow. There is a mountain, over the shadow, Where the sun is shining down.

> Lift your eyes up, children of Zion. Lift your eyes up, children of Zion. Hold on, hold on, your help comes from the Lord.

I went out walking, into the city.
I saw the ancient ruins.
The sound of singing, off in the distance,
Coming from the mountain of God.

Chorus

Men: Lift your eyes up, children of Zion

Women: My help comes from the Lord

Repeat 3X

Together: Don't you know that you're the children of Zion?

Chorus

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

Announcements

Alpha:

Alpha begins with prayer. Please join us in praying for God to bless our fall Alpha class. Pray for God to bring guests and to bless our fellowship, learning, and discussion. It begins this Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30.

Redeemer Membership Class:

Want to learn more about Redeemer, what it means to be presbyterian, and our mission in Tyler? Then make plans to attend our four week membership class which began today. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15. RSVP to Ben if interested. You don't have to be joining to attend, but attending is a requirement for joining.

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 just beginning to study the gospel of Luke.
 Contact Konrad Kern (714-658-4972).
- The women's book study is reading *Renovation of the Heart* (Dallas Willard) and discussing it each Friday morning. Contact Patti Babin (361-215-0065) for information.

Prayer Suggestions:

Topic: needs of our city.

- Monday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in our schools.
- Tuesday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in city, state, and local government, and justice systems.
- Wednesday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically in local law enforcement, emergency response personnel, and hospitals.
- Thursday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically amongst our immigrant, economically disadvantaged, and minority populations. (See Deuteronomy 10.17-19.)
- Friday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically for a unity within our churches and between our churches in the cause of Christ.
- Saturday
 - That God's Kingdom would come and His will be done in our city, specifically that the gospel would be proclaimed throughout our city's churches.