



The Order of Celebration and Worship of God

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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: The eternal Father,
who loved us and set us free from our sins,
who loves us still with that love that will not let us go,
and who will love us forever,
calls us to worship him today as the only true lover of our souls.

People: *The Lord stoops to receive the love of our poor hearts.
He calls us to remember the depth of his love for us in Christ.
God seeks our love!*

Opening Hymn | Melt My Soul to Love

Words by Joseph Swaim (1761-1796); music by Benj Pocta and Brian T. Murphy, 2006.

*Hark! From the cross a gracious voice, salutes my ravished ears;
Rejoice, thou ransomed souls, rejoice! And dry those falling tears!*

*Amazed, I turn, grown strangely bold; this wondrous thing to see;
And there the dying Lord behold, stretched on the bloody tree.*

*“Sinner,” He cried, “behold the head, this thorny wreath entwines;
Look on those wounded hands and read thy name in crimson lines.”*

*The power, the sweetness of that voice my stony heart does move;
Makes me in Christ my Lord rejoice and melts my soul to love.
And melts my soul to love. And melts my soul to love!*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 | Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Words by Isaac Watts (1719), music by William Croft (1700)

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!*

Confession of Sin and Preparation for Baptism

People: *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of His Holy Spirit. For this promise is for us and for our children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

—from Deuteronomy 6 & Acts 2

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 49.15, 66.13

Words of Instruction and Sign of God's Covenant in Baptism

Parental Vows

- Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you claim God's covenant promises in their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
- Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vows

Leader: Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

People: *We do. "For you Jesus came into the world; for you he lived his life; for you he was crucified; for you he was raised from the dead; and for you he is coming again. You may not know this story now, but we, your church, promise to tell you this story until you make it your own."*

(based on French Reformed Baptismal Liturgy)

The Baptism

Phoenix Travis

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 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4] But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5] For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6] So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Hymn of Worship | It is Well With My Soul

Words by Horatio Spafford (1873), Music by Philip P Bliss (1876)

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."*

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.*

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

Psalm | Psalm 123

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes,
People: *O you who are enthroned in the heavens!*
Leader: Behold, as the eyes of servants
People: *Look to the hand of their master,*
Leader: As the eyes of a maidservant
People: *To the hand of her mistress,*
Leader: So our eyes look to the LORD our God,
People: *Till he has mercy upon us.*

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
People: *For we have had more than enough of contempt.*
Leader: Our soul has had more than enough
People: *Of the scorn of those who are at ease,*
Leader: Of the contempt of the proud.

Sermon Text | Exodus 18

[1] Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. [2] Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her home, [3] along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land"), [4] and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh"). [5] Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mountain of God. [6] And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her," [7] Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. [8] Then Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them in the way, and how the LORD had delivered them. [9] And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

[10] Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. [11] Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." [12] And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

[13] The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. [14] When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" [15] And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; [16] when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws." [17] Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. [18] You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. [19] Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, [20] and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. [21] Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. [22] And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. [23] If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

[24] So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. [25] Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. [26] And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. [27] Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith

*I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.*

— from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A54

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 | 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 | O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Words by George Matheson, 1882, Music by Christopher Miner, 1997

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that foll'west all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be. Life that shall endless be!*

Benediction & Dismissal

Leader: The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.

People: *Amen!*

—based on *Philippians 4.7*

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Announcements

5th Annual Advent Bonfire:

Mark your calendars for this annual event which will occur on the evening of Saturday, December 5th. Details to follow!

A Beautiful Orthodoxy:

All are invited to join us at 9:15 Sunday mornings! This class focuses on the basics of our beliefs, seeking to understand *and apply* what our confession of faith teaches about God and his gracious work in this world. You could think of this class as a Greatest Hits of Reformed Theology. We will be meeting until November 22.

Alpha:

Alpha meets on Tuesdays at 6:45 pm at the Travis's home... make sure to let Ben know if you plan to be there!

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 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.