



ORDER OF WORSHIP | SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 34:2-3

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD.

People: Let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: Oh, magnify the LORD with me!

People: And let us exalt his name together!

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Father Long Before Creation

1. Father long before creation
Thou hadst chosen us in love,
And that love so deep, so moving,
Draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

2. Though the world may change its fashion,
Yet our God is e'er the same;
His compassion and His covenant
Through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children
Must forever praise His name.

3. God's compassion is my story
Is my boasting all the day;
Mercy free and never failing
Moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us,
That His only Son He gave.

4. Loving Father now before Thee
We will ever praise Thy love,
And our songs will sound unceasing
'Til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory,
To our God and to the Lamb;

Giving glory, giving glory,
To our God and to the Lamb.

*Words from Chinese Hymn, Translated by Francis Jones
Chorus and music by Andrew Osenga
© 2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings (ASCAP) admin. by The
Loving Company.*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Ephesians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

RESPONSIVE READING

Heidelberg Catechism Question 120

Question 120: Why did Christ command us to call God “our Father”?

Answer: To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer what should be basic to our prayer— a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 149:4

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.

SONG OF PRAISE

Grace Alone

1. I was an orphan, lost at the fall, running away when I'd hear you call,
But Father, you worked your will.
I had no righteousness of my own; I had no right to draw near your throne,
But Father, you loved me still.

Chorus 1

And in love, before you laid the world's foundation
You predestined to adopt me as your own.
You have raised me up so high above my station.
I'm a child of God by grace, and grace alone.

2. You left your home to seek out the lost; You knew the great and terrible cost,
But Jesus, your face was set.
I worked my fingers down to the bone; Nothing I did could ever atone,
But Jesus, you paid my debt.

Chorus 2

By your blood I have redemption and salvation.
Lord, you died that I might reap what you have sown,
And you rose that I might be a new creation.
I am born again by grace, and grace alone.

Bridge

I was darkness all of my life; I never knew the day from the night,
But Spirit, you made me see.
I swore I knew the way on my own; Head full of rocks, a heart made of stone,
But Spirit, you moved in me.

Chorus 3

At your touch my sleeping spirit was awakened.
On my darkened heart the light of Christ has shone.
Called into a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Heaven's citizen by grace, and grace alone.

Ending

So I'll stand in faith by grace, and grace alone.
I will run the race by grace, and grace alone.
I will slay my sin by grace, and grace alone.
I will reach the end by grace, and grace alone.

Dustin Kensrue © 2013 Dead Bird Theology, It's All About Jesus Music

MISSIONS MINUTE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for Equip for Worship after the prayer. Visitors' children are welcome. Today's volunteers: Malerie Huguley, Abigail Kendrick, Naomi Rigg

SCRIPTURE READING

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
² I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
³ things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
⁶ that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
⁷ so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God. ...
¹⁷ Yet they sinned still more against him,
rebellious against the Most High in the desert.
¹⁸ They tested God in their heart
by demanding the food they craved.
¹⁹ They spoke against God, saying,
“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”
²⁰ He struck the rock so that water gushed out
and streams overflowed.
Can he also give bread
or provide meat for his people?”
²¹ Therefore, when the Lord heard, he was full of wrath;
a fire was kindled against Jacob;
his anger rose against Israel,
²² because they did not believe in God
and did not trust his saving power.
²³ Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
²⁴ and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.

Psalm 78 (*See Insert*)

²⁵ Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.
²⁶ He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by his power he led out the south wind;
²⁷ he rained meat on them like dust,
winged birds like the sand of the seas;
²⁸ he let them fall in the midst of their camp,
all around their dwellings.
²⁹ And they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.
³⁰ But before they had satisfied their craving,
while the food was still in their mouths,
³¹ the anger of God rose against them,
and he killed the strongest of them
and laid low the young men of Israel. ...
³⁴ When he killed them, they sought him;
they repented and sought God earnestly.
³⁵ They remembered that God was their rock,
the Most High God their redeemer.
³⁶ But they flattered him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
³⁷ Their heart was not steadfast toward him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.
³⁸ Yet he, being compassionate,
atoned for their iniquity
and did not destroy them;
he restrained his anger often
and did not stir up all his wrath.
³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh,
a wind that passes and comes not again. ...
⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph;
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,
⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loves.
⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,
like the earth, which he has founded forever.
⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
⁷¹ from following the nursing ewes he brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.
⁷² With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.

**SERMON “The God Who Fathers”
- Samuel Hix**

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SONG

1. 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 turns His face away,
As wounds, which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

2. 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.

How Deep the Father's Love

3. 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.

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.

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1995 Thankyou Music

CLOSING SONG

Chorus

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more,
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Chorus

*Authors: Matt Boswell / Matt Papa
© 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs*

His Mercy is More

2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father so tender is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Chorus

3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us,
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Chorus 2X
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

Bryan Rigg, Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • bryan@mercypres.org
101 D Northwynd Cir., Lynchburg, VA 24502 • Website: www.mercypres.org