



February 12, 2023

Experiencing Christ's Love

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Welcome and Greeting

Please Stand

Call to Worship

P The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

C **The Lord is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?**

P The Lord will protect us and guide us.

C **Let us gladly offer ourselves before our God with shouts of joy.**

P We make our beginning in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Let us sing praises to the Lord, our God.**

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Confession and Absolution

- P Our God of light brought hope to the world and joy to our lives through his Son, Jesus. Yet darkness hovers over and clings to our lives. Selfishness and greed block the simple views of God's light. Anger and violence overpower gentle words and extinguish the light for others. Despair casts shadows of doubt, but our God calls us back into His light once more. As we confess our failures, God meets us with love and forgiveness. There's no need to fear God, because He offers us mercy as we come to him honestly.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Prayer of Confession

- P Let us pray:
- C **Merciful Lord, even with the wonder of Your birth still in our minds, we confess our failure to welcome Your presence with us. We have gone our own ways rather than walked in Your light. We have been stingy with Your love after You have lavished us with grace. We humbly pray for Your forgiveness again and acknowledge our unworthiness of Your mercy. We simply cling to Your promises and pray for more of Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.**

P We once walked in darkness, but now we have seen a great light! God's light has come into our world and into our lives in Jesus Christ in whom we put our trust. The darkness of our sin is cast away and new life is ours once more. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

- C **Thanks be to God we are set free to worship our King!**

Please be seated

Hymn of Praise Video: " Overwhelmed" by Big Daddy Weave

Prayer of the Day

Isaiah 52:13—53:6

Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at you
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind
so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand. Who has believed what they
heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Prayer Response

- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

Luke 8:4–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Celebration of Life: Robert Booth (10:30 a.m. service)

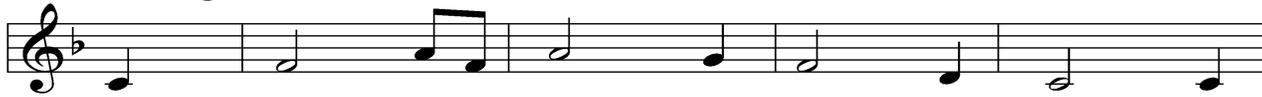
Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1-5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON:

"SOIL FOR SOWING"

LUKE 8:4-15

Please Stand

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord

sts. 1-4



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;
 2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
 3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
 4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban-quet hall.
 How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
 And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
 Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774-1841; tr. Composite Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Congregation

- A Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

C 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please remain standing

Words of the Institution

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Please be seated

Video During Communion: "God of All My Days" by Casting Crowns

Continuous Distribution by Pastor

(Family units come forward to receive the elements and take them to their seats. Please wait to eat and drink until instructed.)

All Receive the Sacrament together

(Pastor will indicate when to take the wafer and then the cup.)



Please Stand

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated and please wait for the ushers to dismiss you.

Acknowledgments

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