

Mercy Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • MARCH 29, 2020 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP PSALM 96:8-13

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

People: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Leader: Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Leader: Let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

All: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in faithfulness.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

1. This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This Is My Father's World

3. This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That, though the wrong seems oft so
strong,
God is the Ruler yet!
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done:
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one!
This is my Father's world,
The battle is not done:
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one!

*Authors: Franklin Lawrence Sheppard / Maltbie D.
Babcock
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READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 62:1-8

- 1 For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- 3 How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. Selah
- 5 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
- 6 He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
- 8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. Selah

HYMN OF CONFESSION

By Grace Alone

1. Out of the depths, I cry to You,
Lord, hear my voice of pleading;
Bend down Your gracious ear, I pray,
Your humble servant heeding.
If You remember each misdeed,
And of each thought and word take heed,
Who can remain before You?
Only by grace, by grace alone.

2. Your pardon is a gift of love,
Your grace alone must save us,
Our works will not remove our guilt,
The strictest life would fail us.
Let none in deeds or merits boast,
But let us own the Holy Ghost,
For He alone can change us:
Only by grace, by grace alone.

3. Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our kind and faithful Shepherd He,
Who will set all His people free
From all their sin and sorrow:
Only by grace, by grace alone.

*Authors: David Ward | Martin Luther Based on Psalm 130
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CONFESSION OF SIN

O King and Father, your Son died and was raised up in power. Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in Him. We confess to you: Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

HYMN OF ASSURANCE Before the Throne of God Above

1. 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 heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. 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.

3. 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.
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.

*Authors: Words by Charitie Lees Bancroft; Music by Vikki Cook
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Music)*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 22:1-21

¹“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.” ²And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: ³“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹²“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷“When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ ²¹And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

SERMON “Paul’s Defense”
- Rev. Bryan Rigg

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Accusation:
2. The Defense:
 - a. Who he was in the past (v. 1-5)
 - b. His conversion (v. 6-16)
 - c. How God intends to use his present and future (v. 17-21)

HYMN OF RESPONSE **Let Your Kingdom Come**

1. Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
The cross has saved us, so we pray,
"Your kingdom come."

Chorus

Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done!
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
'Til Your sovereign work on earth is done.

Let Your kingdom come!

2. Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak
Perform your wondrous deeds through those who are weak
Lord, use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace, we'll preach Your Gospel till our dying breath.
Chorus 2X

Let Your kingdom come!
Let Your kingdom come!

*Words and Music by Bob Kauflin
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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

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