

# Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:10-12

Leader: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth.

People: **It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

Leader: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

People: **The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing.**

Leader: And all the trees in the field shall clap their hands.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## O For a Thousand Tongues

1. O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.  
(Repeat Verse 1)

2. My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

3. "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.

4. He breaks the power of reigning sin,  
He sets the pris'ner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.

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

6. Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
And leap ye lame for joy!

(Repeat Verse 1)

*Music: Carl Glaser; Lyrics: Charles Wesley;  
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## OLD TESTAMENT READING

## Ezekiel 34:11-16

<sup>11</sup> “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, in the fullness of time you sent forth your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. But we show little interest in your great salvation. We have not searched out, nor carefully inquired, concerning the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus. We fail to reflect on what he endured for us, and have lived for ourselves rather than for him, who for our sake died and was raised. Though we are faithless in many ways, we trust in your faithfulness to us, secured in the cross of Christ our Savior.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

## He Will Hold Me Fast

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.

### Chorus

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.  
Chorus

3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
‘Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!  
Chorus 2X

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 15

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

### SERMON

“Prodigals”  
- Rev. Ben Spivey

## COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY HYMN

### Come Ye Sinners

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
Full of pity, joined with power.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.

2. Come, ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

3. Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry 'til you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

4. Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

5. Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him; venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

*Words: Joseph Hart. Music: Matthew S. Smith  
2000 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP)*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

## O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

1. 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.

2. O Light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

3. 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.

4. 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.

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;

*Authors: Words by George Matheson; Music by Christopher Miner  
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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

**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